

**SERIOUS FATALITY WITH HENS.**

I have had trouble with my hens dying, losing sometimes four and five a day; have lost about twenty-five. Symptoms: They sit around for a day or two as if paralyzed and others die on the roost. They eat at night and are dead in the morning. The hens are very fat and heavy. Those opened show no signs of disease that I can see; all have had feed in their crops. Most of them had a kind of diarrhoea—yellow and green droppings. All sick ones have been removed from flock and some killed. Have not been able to save any sick ones. The roosts were disinfected with lime and carbolic acid. Hens have the run of the fields and are well fed on wheat and mixed chop. I used "Pan-ac-ea." I also put a little carbolic acid in their drinking water and a little copperas in another drinking place. Would like to know disease and cure? Neighbors were losing before mine were infected. **POULTRYMAN.**  
Norfolk Co., Ont.

The yellowish droppings with the greenish mixture are strong indications of cholera or severe dysentery. Your subscriber has certainly done right in removing from the flock all sick birds. Lime and carbolic acid are good disinfectants. I should advise the free use, especially under the roosts, of air-slaked lime, to which has been added about a pint of crude carbolic to a bushel of lime. The Panacea has in some cases given good results in checking diarrhoea. In trying to treat any of these diseases, it is well to remember that we have first to remove the cause. Where fowls are allowed to drink freely from barnyard cesspools and such places, it is very difficult indeed to prevent this diarrhoea. The cesspool apparently acts as a hotbed for the germs of the disease. If at all possible, do away with the cesspool or else remove the hens to new quarters. If you cannot manage it in any other way, it might be advisable and profitable to build a small open colony house, and put the fowls out in a pasture field or some such place, where they cannot get near this water. I have had some reports of success in treating this disease from parties who have been using steepings from white-oak bark. This is given to drink in not too strong form, also mixed with the soft food and given to the fowls in that way. It is desirable, if at all possible, for the party having the sick fowls to send some of them to the bacteriological laboratory here, in order that we may examine them. We are anxious to get as many birds that are affected with disease as possible, in order that the disease and causes of the diseases may be thoroughly investigated.

W. R. GRAHAM.

Poultry Dept., O. A. C.

**PROTECTION FROM MUSTARD.**

A farmer in this district has a patch of wild mustard, and his neighbors are anxious to protect themselves from this pest. What can be done to prevent it from spreading to other farms?  
Huron Co. **SUBSCRIBER.**

Ans.—If the farmers on adjoining lots be careful neither to sow seed grown on nor accept the threshing machine directly from the infected farm, there is but little danger of encroachment by this weed. But if the Act to Prevent the Spread of Noxious Weeds (R. S. O., Chap. 279) has by municipal by-law been extended to your township, it is the duty of the farmer to cut down or destroy such weeds so often each and every year as is sufficient to prevent the ripening of their seed, provided that such cutting or destruction does not involve the destruction of the growing grain.

**BOUNDARY LINE AND LANE.**

There is a company lane, two rods wide, between my neighbor and me. This lane runs about two-thirds of the entire length of the lot, but there is no fence between us at the rear end. One rod of this lane belongs to me and the other to him, but has been used by the occupants of both farms for over twenty years. I want my neighbor to build half of the fence on the line, and I would build the rest, but he doesn't seem willing to do it. Would I be justified in building my share on the line, and then take away my fence opposite to his half, which is one rod on me? **A. B. S.**  
Wellington Co., Ont.

Ans.—Judging, as we must, from your statement of case alone, we would say that you are probably entitled, in point of law, to do what you propose. It is possible, however, that if the documentary titles to the two farms were looked at, it might be found that the two rods had been mutually provided for the purposes of a permanent way. Its usage for upwards of twenty years, as described, would go to indicate that there was such an arrangement. Assuming that such was the case, you certainly would not be justified in disturbing the premises as suggested.

**TANNING WOODCHUCK SKINS.**

Please give me a recipe for tanning woodchuck skins for whips and strings, and one for tanning with the fur on?  
Lanark Co., Ont. **JAMES MATTHEWS.**

Ans.—See this year's issue of "Farmer's Advocate," January 15th, page 51, and March 15th, page 220, which will answer your questions quite fully.

**COLT RUBBING MANE—PLOWING SOD FOR SPRING WHEAT—LIVE-FOR-EVER.**

1. Bought a colt last spring with his mane badly rubbed out. Could I do anything to stop him from rubbing it now?

2. Have a piece of timothy sod on which I would like to put spring wheat. Would it be better to plow as soon as hay is off and then plow again in the fall, or would it be better just to plow once in the fall? 3. Have a weed they call "live-forever." Is there any way of killing it? If so, how would you go about it?  
Lanark Co. **JOHN W. ELLIOTT.**

Ans.—1. If the rubbing be merely a habit, it will be difficult to stop, unless the animal be tied for some time in a stable. If due to itchiness caused by a skin disease, treat the mane as for mange. See "Farmer's Advocate," July 1st, page 492.

2. The treatment which the sod should receive this fall in preparing for spring wheat will vary, depending upon the freeness of the field from weeds, the texture of the soil, and the toughness of the sod. If the land is free from noxious weeds and apt to turn up quite mellow, plowing late in the fall would do very well. This course would allow the field to be pastured for a much longer time than if plowed early. In no case would it be necessary to turn twice with the ordinary plow. Where it is desired to destroy weeds or germinate weed seeds, and also place the soil in the very best condition for crop the following spring, it is better to plow about five inches deep, roll it once to hold moisture and hasten decay; then follow with cultivator lengthways, and later, when the sod has rotted somewhat, cross cultivation may begin. An occasional stirring of the surface will be sufficient until late fall, when the double-mouldboard plow, or cultivator with ribber attachment, should be used to "rib up." This will expose a large surface to the action of sun and frost and hasten drainage the following spring.

3. We have not known live-forever to withstand good cultivation. If the infested field be in grass, plow up, cultivate and have the sod well rotted for either a hoed crop or a thick covering of rape next year. Careful treatment in this way should wipe the intruder completely out.

**NIGHT-FLOWERING CATCHFLY—THICK IN WIND.**

1. Will you please inform me, through your next issue, the name of the weed which I send you to-day? I have found some in my timothy hay these two years. It seems to thrive best on low ground. Where did it first originate? How is the best way to get rid of it?

2. What is the best treatment for a horse that is getting thick in the wind? I have taken the "Farmer's Advocate" for a number of years and would not be satisfied to do without it.  
Kent Co., Ont. **W. J. C.**

Ans.—1. The weed received is night-flowering catchfly (*Silene noctiflora*), the exact origin of which is unknown. It has been prevalent in certain districts of Ontario for many years, but is by no means one of our worst weeds. It can be wiped out of any farm by sowing only clean seed and by adopting a system of shallow cultivation which will include considerable tillage after harvest. In this way the seeds will be germinated, and, being an annual, it does not reproduce from the root the second season.

2. Horses suffering from unsoundness of wind should not receive large quantities of bulky food. Neither should the fodder contain any dust or be in any way of a musty character. One tablespoonful of oil of tar, if given in the feed three or four times a week, will greatly aid respiration. Animals so affected should not be subjected to violent exercise for at least one hour after feeding or watering.

**COWS FAIL TO COME IN HEAT—RAPE FOR FALL PASTURE.**

1. I would like to know why my cows do not come in heat? They are young and in fair condition. One calved in August last, and have not noticed her in heat yet. They have good pasture, plenty of well water, and salt about once a week. 2. Also, do you think I could get good results from sowing rape in the latter part of July, broadcast, on alsike-clover sod on light land?  
York Co., Ont. **F. W. G.**

Ans.—1. Cows that are suckling calves sometimes fail to come in heat for many months. Cows that are being milked, if in good condition, usually come in season within two or three months after calving. The only suggestion we can offer, with a view of hastening the desired end, is to feed a meal ration once or twice a day or to dry the cow.

2. Yes, if land is rolled and harrowed immediately after plowing, to retain moisture, and the season is fairly favorable to growth.

**"CREAMERY" BUTTER.**

Can you give me the Chap. and sections of Act you quoted as prohibiting the use of the word "creamery" by farmers on dairy butter, in an issue of the "Advocate," of, I think, either March 1st or 15th, 1902?  
Vanneck, Ont.

Ans.—55-56 Vic., Chap. 29, sections 443, 446, 448 and 450, particularly. (Dominion Statutes.)

**VETCH, SOW THISTLE AND DOGBANE.**

Will you give me information concerning the enclosed weeds? Please give name and best manner to clean the land of them? Weeds Nos. 1 and 2 are spreading over a whole field, No. 3 is only a small patch. Would rape be a good crop to destroy them with?  
Huron Co., Ont. **A FARMER'S SON.**

Ans.—Weed No. 1 is vetch (*Vicia sativa*); No. 2, sow thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*), and No. 3 a species of dogbane. The first two are more difficult to eradicate than the latter. Plow infested fields to a depth of three or four inches soon after harvest, and continue cultivation at regular intervals until the period of growth has ceased. The following season follow, if possible, with a hoed crop. Rape may be used to advantage either when sown in drills and cultivated or when sown broadcast thickly enough to smother slower-growing plants. The adoption of a short rotation of crops affords splendid opportunities for the destruction of troublesome weeds. Dogbane is allied to common milkweed in nature and habit, and, although less difficult to eradicate, will require similar treatment.

**IMPORTATION OF MANURES.**

Is the importation of manure from the stockyards of Buffalo into Canada prohibited by law? If so, it would be a great boon to the farmers, especially of the Niagara Peninsula, if the restriction could be removed. I notice that the most progressive farmers of York State are railing this manure great distances—in one case that I know of, 70 miles—and surely if any danger was to be apprehended from this practice these people would not continue to incur the risk. Give us free trade in manure at least.  
H. D.  
Lincoln Co., Ont.

Ans.—Animal and vegetable manures are free of duty, under tariff item 520. There is no restriction on the importation, so far as we are aware, except the certificate in respect of hog manure, referred to in Memo. 880 B, still in force, and which provides "that declarations shall be filed with Collectors of Customs on the entry of imported animal manures, to the effect that such animal manure contains no hog manure; such declarations to be made and signed by the importers in all cases, and also by the railway agent at the port of export, where the importation is by railway, and by the driver of the vehicle, when imported by land otherwise than by railway carriage. This, we presume, is as a safeguard against hog cholera.

**PLANTING STRAWBERRIES.**

Will strawberry plants planted in the fall, say in September, bear the following summer? What soil is considered the most adaptable; and could you give me the name and address of some Ontario dealer who has plants for sale now?  
York Co., Ont. **H. S. STAYNER.**

Ans.—See short article on strawberries in Orchard and Garden department of this issue. If planted in September, a small crop might be expected the next season. We are not sure that any dealer has plants for sale just now. Address R. Crysler, St. George, Ont., or any of the leading seedsmen of Toronto, some of whom might supply you with potted plants.

**DRAINING A CELLAR.**

I cannot drain my house cellar by tile or drilled well. I have the floor well laid with gravel and cement, 6 inches thick, but the water will soak in. Is there anything that will keep the water out?  
Wentworth Co., Ont. **A. BUSH.**

Ans.—Where cement is properly laid, water cannot get through in any quantity; moisture, however, may collect on the inside. A good wall is as necessary in preventing water to enter a cellar as a well-laid floor. If your wall is also of cement and the connection between it and the floor well made, give both walls and floor a good coat of cement wash. Apply in the same manner as ordinary whitewash, only use cement instead of lime.

**DRAGON'S HEAD.**

Enclosed find a weed which is growing very thickly in some of my grain and also in my neighbor's. Please state if it will do any harm if allowed to spread, and also what I shall do to kill it if it should?  
Prince Edward Co., Ont. **SUBSCRIBER.**

Ans.—The weed is known as dragon's head. It is not likely to spread to any extent nor give much trouble in cultivated fields. Land that has not been seeded to clover or grass should receive shallow cultivation after harvest, to cause the germination of the weed seeds in the ground.

**CEMENT FLOORS BEST.**

Will some readers of the "Farmer's Advocate" give something from their experience with cement stable floors for horses and cattle—i. e., as to their healthfulness and general suitability?

Argenteuil, P. Q. **R. HAMILTON.**  
Ans.—This subject has been so frequently dealt with in correspondence and otherwise, that there can be little room for doubt in anyone's mind as to the superiority of cement floors over any other sort, both from a sanitary and economical standpoint.