

GARDEN  ORCHARD.

SUCKERS FROM GRAPEVINE ROOTS.

I find my grapes are throwing up what I call suckers from the roots. Kindly let me know if it will injure the vines to remove this growth at the root. From reading, I learn of "bleeding." If I remove this growth (which must draw nourishment from the main canes), will it kill the vines by this so-called "bleeding"? I removed some, and covered the wounds with tar; but, fearing I am doing wrong, I ask for reliable information.

R. F.

Ans.—It depends largely upon what method of pruning and training you are adopting whether it would be advisable to leave the canes coming from the roots of the vines, or to remove them. If you do not require any new canes to renew older ones which are to be cut out, then you would save the strength of the vine by removing the new shoots from the bottom at once. The loss of sap, or "bleeding," as it is called, in grapevines occurs most when the vines are pruned early in the spring, before growth starts. It is, however, not nearly so injurious to the vine as many suppose, and is caused by the excessive root pressure forcing moisture into the canes on which there is no new growth to make use of it. After buds have started, however, and leaves begin to form, there will be little loss from bleeding. It is not necessary to cover the wounds. I would advise care in the use of tar upon the vines, as it might cause serious injury if applied freely.

H. L. HUTT.

O. A. C.

DIRECTIONS FOR SENDING SPECIMENS.

Orchardists are urged to examine their trees and plantations very closely for insect and fungous pests, and when evidence of their presence is found, to send specimens for identification to the most convenient competent authority. Specimens of insects, if dead, should be wrapped in paper or cotton and inclosed in a pasteboard box. If the specimen is particularly soft, it should be packed in cotton saturated with alcohol. Whenever possible, grubs, caterpillars, and so forth, should be packed alive in a box together with a supply of their food; air-holes are not necessary. Particulars as to where the insect was found, and the nature of the damage it is doing, whether to leaves, buds or stem, are frequently of very great importance. Send for information and identification of specimens to:

"The Farmer's Advocate," London, Ont.

Dr. Jas. Fletcher, Dominion Entomologist, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

Dr. C. J. S. Bethune, Professor of Entomology, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ontario.

Professor Lochhead, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec.

Professor Smith, Agricultural College, Truro, N. S.

Fruit Division, Ottawa (postage free).

POULTRY.

TO RID A HOUSE OF MITES.

The United States Department of Agriculture issues the following directions for ridding a hen-house of mites with sulphur fumes. This method is of use only when the house can be made absolutely tight. For an open house, hot kerosene emulsion, or even hot soap-suds from the washing, with a quantity of coarse salt dissolved in it, will kill the mites wherever it reaches them.

There are several varieties of lice which attack poultry. They subsist mainly on the feathers, and perhaps on the epidermic scales. They are found largely on the head and neck, under the wings, and about the vent, and, when present in large numbers, they cause the fowls much discomfort. Persian insect powder (pyrethrum), powdered sulphur, and some of the various preparations on the market, such as the louse powders, are good in combating these pests. The hens can be dusted with one of these powders after they have gone to roost. Have the powder in a box with a perforated cover, grasp the fowl by the legs, and shake the powder well among the feathers. Dust at least three times at intervals of about a week, in order to catch the lice that hatch out after the first dusting.

The mites subsist on the blood of the fowls, and are not usually found on the bodies of the bird except when at roost or on the nest. During the day they inhabit cracks and crevices of the walls, roosts and nests. Sitting hens are often so annoyed that they are compelled to leave the nests in order to relieve themselves of these parasites. The free use of kerosene about the nests and perches is useful in fighting mites. The walls of the house may be sprayed with kerosene, the operation being repeated every three or four days for two weeks. Insect powders are of little avail.

The following method has proved excellent in ridding houses of mites and lice when the weather conditions are such as to permit the birds being kept outside the house for five or six hours: Close all the doors and windows, and see that there are no cracks or any other openings to admit air. Get an iron vessel and set it on gravel or sand near the center of the house; place in the vessel a handful of shavings or straw saturated with kerosene, and on these sprinkle sulphur at the rate of about one pound to every ninety or one hundred square feet of floor space. Instead of using the shavings and kerosene, the sulphur can be saturated with wood alcohol. When everything else is in readiness, light the material and hastily leave the house. In case any anxiety is felt about fire, a glance through a window will show whether everything is all right. There is very little danger of fire when proper precautions have been taken to have plenty of soil beneath the vessel. Allow the house to remain closed for three or four hours, at the end of which time one can safely conclude that there are no living beings inside. Now throw all the doors and windows wide open, so as to drive out the sulphur fumes thoroughly, and then the fowls may be allowed to enter. Let them in one by one, and as each enters catch it and dust it well with insect powder, which will destroy the lice on the birds. Tobacco dust is also good to use instead of insect powder. The birds and house have now been freed from vermin for the present, but the eggs of the insects have not been destroyed, and in a week another swarm will be hatched out. Therefore, it will be necessary to repeat the operation once or twice before the pests are exterminated. After this, care should be used to see that no strange fowl is admitted to the house or yard without having been thoroughly rid of lice, for one lousy hen will contaminate all the rest.

THE FARM BULLETIN.

AN ALTERNATIVE OF CONSCRIPTION.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

As Miss Watts has conceded so many of the points of our controversy, I would not have encroached further on your valuable space had she not insinuated that I had attempted to misrepresent her in regard to her statements concerning the conduct of the Nova Scotians at the military camp at Kentville. Miss Watts is surely aware that, when to prove a statement she quotes from any source, she adopts the opinion of that writer as her own. A strange statement of Miss Watts reads thus: "I have said nothing on my own authority concerning military camps." Might I ask on whose authority she stated in your issue of April 2nd: "I saw fighting and drunkenness on the drill ground"? In my humble opinion, the people of Nova Scotia might find ample ground for thinking that Miss Watts has placed them in a false light.

Miss Watts quotes Tennyson to strengthen one of her arguments. She must know, however, that the late Poet Laureate (though like most of us by no means desirous of war) was far from being a "peace at any price" man, and very far from being an adherent of her theories. She is, of course, aware that the talented poet was one of the most enthusiastic workers in the volunteer movement, and is said to have done more for the cause than any other single individual by the publication of his spirited poem, "Form, Form, Riflemen Form!" An extract from which reads:

"Let your reforms for a moment go,
Stand to your butts and take good aim.
Better a rotten Borough or so
Than a rotten fleet, or a city in flames."

Miss Watts will also hardly find the gifted poet in harmony with her views, when in his "Ode on the Death of the Duke of Wellington," he says:

"But wink no more in slothful overtrust,
Remember him who led your hosts,
He bade you guard the sacred coasts."

As Miss Watts, in her reply to Capt. Kimmins, evidently did not consider she was going too far afield in giving her explanation of the Chili-Argentina arbitration, perhaps it will not be out of place to refer her to the people of Switzerland. As all the world knows, the inhabitants of that valiant little country have, for over five hundred years, had military training in their schools, and, as a result, the necessity for a standing army is done away with, as every man is ready, at a moment's notice, for the defence of his country, if need arise. (This is an excellent illustration of my theory that military training in the schools is a sane alternative for conscription.) Miss Watts considers that such instruction would foster a warlike and aggressive spirit in our country; but, after five hundred years' zealous training along these lines, the Swiss people could hardly be called an aggressive nation by even the most bigoted opponent of military training. This is "defence," not "defiance."

Miss Watts claims that she does not condemn Tommy Atkins. We may be in error, but we were of the opinion that such an epithet as "parasite" was generally reserved as a term of condemnation.

Mr. Kipling has survived so many storms of

criticism without any apparent injury, that the knowledge that he has been styled "the Poet Laureate of brute force," is not at all likely to upset his mental equilibrium to any extent. Mr. Kipling, with his characteristic disdain of sham, has depicted Tommy Atkins, whom he loves, as he has found him, scorning to gloss over his defects, after the manner of so many of his brother writers. He has made the vices and virtues, which are equally numerous, of the much-maligned private of the line stand out in bold relief, as he himself says:

"I have wrought from common clay
Rude figures of a rough-hewn race,
For pearls strew not the market-place."

The "Recessional" alone would have served to immortalize Kipling; and, in all probability, his works will survive many attacks of belittling critics.

MILITARY-TRAINED FARMER.

Peterboro Co., Ont.

THE AUTOMOBILE INTEREST.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Your columns, for a few weeks past, have contained many articles condemning the automobile on every side. There are two sides to every question, and I think the people who drive autos are respectable enough and numerous enough to receive some consideration from the farmers of this fair Dominion.

One firm, who manufacture automobiles in Canada, sold more than 10,000 cars of their runabout type in 1907, and there are more than double this number of automobiles in use in Canada to-day, a number great enough, I think, for the farmers to give some consideration before trying to close the garage doors by legislation.

Ask any automobile driver you meet, and he will tell you that not more than one-third of the horses he passes are frightened of his car, and I claim it is not fair to shut the automobile from the roads for the sake of one-third of the drivers of this country, a very small per cent. of which ever become frightened enough to cause severe trouble. The colts in their pastures to-day become familiar with the autos, and there will be a very few horses cause their drivers trouble in a year or two; and I feel sure that this matter will adjust itself without seeking harsh legislation from our Government.

EDWARD O. MILLSON.

Durham Co., Ont.

[Note.—Our correspondent is more sure than we are about the trouble adjusting itself automatically. Observe also the cavalier manner with which he disposes of the mere fraction of one-third of the horse population and their drivers, "a very small per cent. of which ever become frightened enough to cause severe trouble." With extremists on either side, we cannot agree. It will not do to close the garage doors; neither will it do to permit, without restriction, a traffic that would close one-third, one-tenth, or even one per cent. of the stable doors. Farmers have the first and best claim to the safe use of country roads.—Editor.]

FAIR DATES FOR 1908.

June 18th to 20th.—Galt Horse Show, Galt, Ont.
June 18th to 27th.—International Horse Show, Olympia, London, England.
June 23rd to 26th.—Edmonton.
June 30th to July 4th.—Royal Agricultural Society's Show, at Newcastle-on-Tyne.
June 29th to July 9th.—Dominion Exhibition, Calgary, Alta.
July 11th to 17th.—Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition.
July 13th to 17th.—Brandon.
July 21st to 24th.—Highland Society Show, at Aberdeen.
July 21st to 24th.—Regina.
Sept. 22nd and 23rd.—St. Thomas Horse Show, St. Thomas, Ont.
Sept. 29th to Oct. 3rd.—New Westminster, B. C.
Nov. 28th to Dec. 5th.—International Live-stock Exposition, Chicago.

O. A. C. GRADUATES, 1908.

The following thirty students of the Ontario Agricultural College have completed their final examinations for the degree of Bachelor of the Science of Agriculture (B. S. A.), conferred by the University of Toronto: E. S. Archibald, T. R. Arkell, W. A. Barnett, L. A. Bowes, W. A. Brown, L. Caesar, F. A. Clowes, G. B. Curran, F. H. Denniss, G. M. Frier, J. D. Gilmour, H. Groh, J. H. Hare, H. Hibberd, R. W. Hodson, D. M. Johnson, D. H. Jones, M. A. Jull, E. Lewis, D. A. McKenzie, A. H. McLennan, I. F. Metcalf, C. Murray, W. C. Owen, A. M. W. Patch, D. M. Rose, A. E. Slater, F. B. Warren, R. M. Winslow, H. A. Wolverton.

A bill prohibiting the use of automobiles, to continue in force indefinitely, has passed both houses of the Legislature of Bermuda and received the signature of the Governor.