

are very reticent indeed, taking care to state what the *introducer* says of it without giving their own opinion. We read the following caution in several seed catalogues: "Stock has to be taught to eat it by confinement and fasting; the mixing of *chopped* comfrey with grass, *green corn* fodder; a sprinkling of meal, bran, and a little salt." However it is further stated—by a few only—that after such persevering efforts, cattle will come to leave almost any food for the comfrey. This, remember, is the testimony of seedsmen who have comfrey for sale. We must frankly admit that we do not feel tempted to try it. However, to such as take a deep interest in the matter, our advice would be: "Try it on a very small scale." The returns are started from 75 to 100 tons per acre, per annua, of green fodder, in six cuttings. Who believes it?

In fact, this seems to us a very dubious matter indeed; but, let us hear from such who have "taught their stock to eat it."

**Butter Making.**

The following advice on butter making and packing is worth reproducing, and attending to:

**IMPORTANT TO FARMERS.**

The *poor Tubs* that have been used in some parts of the Township the past few years have hurt the sale of the Butter. A saw-stave tub is not fit to keep Butter in; it is too heavy, gets dirty quickly, and cannot possibly be kept clean in shipping.

*Poor fitting lids*, with small sawn rims, are almost worthless, and break up like pipe-stems. All tubs should be made from the best wood, *split staves*, (never sawn on any account), and have tight-fitting covers, with a broad rim. The proper height of a tub holding fifty (50) pounds of Butter, measured on the outside, with the lid on, is fifteen (15) inches. Farmers that will insist on putting their Butter into *cheap tubs* must expect to sell their Butter at a *cheap price*, as the English market is getting very particular about the kind of tubs used.

A cool dry room to keep your Milk in, a cool place to churn in, and a cool place to keep your Butter in, are all indispensable for good Butter-making. Remember the bottom principle of good Butter-making is *even temperature* all through. New pans and new systems work poorly without the above requisites, while most any system works well with them. Better Cows, better feed, and greater care would add much to the profits with little cost. Don't spoil your Butter with cheap fine Salt; "Higgins' Eureka" is the Best.

A. A. AYER & Co.



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Respecting tubs, we are informed that two cts. a lb were made last fall, on a very large lot of butter, by merely re-making the tubs, putting new hoops on, and a new well fitting lid. Well finished tubs would have cost about the same price as the common home-made tubs in question, and two dollars for every hundred pounds of butter might have been saved by the farmers. This is worth remembering!

**Cost of raising Sugar Beets.**

The following questions and answers may prove interesting to such as intend to grow sugar beets, and to encourage beet sugar making:

Dear Sir,

I am anxious to collect the special and particular facts of the Canadian experiments in beet culture. The blue book, 1878, does not give the cost of growing an acre of the root. Perhaps you could let me have *your own* experience and that of one or two friends who have raised crops.

*Answer.* — We are not aware that any close calculation has been made, in this Province, as to the cost of growing sugar-beets. The amount of expenses would depend considerably on the experience of the grower, the implements at his command, &c. Any one who has grown root crops will soon arrive at a fair estimate as to the cost of sugar-beet raising. The advantages are in favor of the latter in as much as no barn yard manure need be used in rich wheat or barley land, and that no riding is required. A good

seed-drill will sow several drills at a time, sugar-beets being *cultivated on the flat*. Harvesting will also cost less than with manure, as the crop will be about  $\frac{1}{2}$  less in sugar-beets. An implement, in general use in Europe, pulls up in excellent manner one, and even two drills at a time with a good pair of horses.

The following estimated cost of sugar beet raising will be near an average:

Rent (from \$2 to \$5 per acre).....	\$ 4
2 plowings (1 extra deep), \$4; scarifying, \$1....	5
Seed, \$2; drillings &c., \$1.....	3
2 hoeings, and 2 thinnings, &c.....	8
Harvesting and carting off the field.....	10
Finely ground phosphate, \$4 (or superphosphate, \$8) ..	6

\$36

By 15 tons of sugar beets at \$4... \$60  
Average profit per acre, \$24

We allow \$1 per ton for freight and delivering; beets being worth \$5 a ton, at the very least, at the factory.

The average return from such beets as have been grown all over the Province, and analysed by the Department of Agriculture in Quebec would, in ordinary practice, yield about 8 0/10 of the beet in pure white crystallized sugar, although as much as 10 0/10 could be obtained by the best sugar makers, with proper machinery.

We estimate the average crop of sugar beets at 15 tons per acre, but an average of from 2 to 25 tons can safely be reckoned on with carefully cultivation in rich, well prepared soil.

Sir,

I am always pleased to see The Agricultural Journal; although small, yet there is a good deal of information in it which should be of benefit to farmers. I should however like to see a discussion carried on in the Journal, upon our Agricultural Societies. My idea is that they have failed to be of that benefit to the country, which one would be led to expect, from the amount of money that has been granted to them by the Government. The fault no doubt has been in a measure due to the managers, who are not always selected from the most intelligent of the farmers, and also to the system of dividing the amount into as many prizes as possible, without any regard to the quality of cattle exhibited.

The Board of Agriculture should take the societies more under their supervision, re-adjust their Bye-Laws, and enforce better premiums, and do away altogether with some—for instance: every society gives premiums upon Grade Male Animals; this should be especially prohibited by the Board, as there can be no question, that the use of these animals is an injury to the farmer, and why allow the grant to be so expended? None but thorough-bred male animals of any class should be allowed to compete, and these should have properly certified pedigrees. No written pedigree of the owner or breeder should be allowed, with the exception of young animals, where a correct pedigree could not be obtained in time. The rule issued by the Board respecting prizes for well cultivated farms should also be enforced. The system of choosing judges should be changed if possible. Would it not be a good thing for the Board of Agriculture to employ a few first class men as judges, and pay them, who could go round to every exhibition, and also award the prizes on farms? I know it would cost something, but the object is to do the largest amount of good with the grant, and the subscribers, or exhibitors, would have greater confidence in these judges, than in men who are very often taken from the immediate neighbourhood of the exhibition, and who naturally have their prejudices for some particular class of stock or animal.

Would it not also be better for the Board to insist upon each society, expending some portion of their grant every year on improved thorough bred stock; on the introduction of new seeds and roots, and on the encouragement of fruit culture.

The Agricultural Farms might be made available for the diffusion of improved stock. Here they could be raised under the supervision of the Board, and a moderate price fixed by the Board. This would be making the Government grant to these schools of great value to the farmers, and the farmer would take an interest in the schools, which they do not now. AYLMER.

To A. R. Jenner Fust, Esq.