

The Grange.

SIR,—I would like to ask your opinion of the Grange. 1st. Do you believe they are a benefit to farmers, and if so, in what way? 2nd. Would you advise a young farmer to join them, and lose one or two evenings in each week? or would you not think it a wiser course to invest the amount of initiation fees and quarterly dues in good agricultural papers, and spend the time he would lose in attending Grange meetings in reading? 3rd. Do you think that Grange storekeeping will seriously affect the regular merchant?

By answering the above you will confer a favor on a

YOUNG FARMER, Avonport, N. S.

[In reply to your first question, we believe Granges are a benefit to farmers, as all farmers' clubs, farmers' leagues and such societies are. They bring farmers to compare notes of their work, and of what they learn every season in their business. Intelligent men in any calling improve each other by mutual intercourse.]

2. It is not necessary to lose one or two evenings a week by joining the Grange. An evening spent at the Grange may be profitably employed, and the meetings are held but monthly. The initiation fees and quarterly dues do not amount to much. The information acquired may be worth much more if Granges confine themselves to their business. The amount of fees should not interfere with your purchase of good, useful books and papers.

3. Granges need not interfere with the business of storekeepers. That they have done so in some instances is admitted, but in this they step beyond their true vocation, and give cause for ill-will towards the Order, by not confining themselves to their own business.]

The Farmers' Interests.

SIR,—I am very pleased to see the active part you have taken in the interests of the farming community. I notice in your last issue figures stating the estimated loss by contagious diseases. I saw it stated in an American paper that in the last twenty-five years England has lost \$450,000,000 in this way alone, and likewise other countries where such diseases have not been stamped out by the Government. The greatest losers are those that have endeavored to cure it by quarantining the sick or inoculating the healthy. Palliative measures have in every instance failed to eradicate the disease.

Let us look at the countries where this means of quarantining has been tried. Under this head come England, Belgium, Holland, Germany, France, Prussia, Italy, Austria, Australia, etc. Now, taking the loss of England, which I presume is not over the average, or not as much, and the loss foots up an enormous sum. While in those countries where it has broken out at times, and the whole herds been killed by a compulsory Act of Parliament, and wherever it has been definitely exterminated, it is only by a strict enforcement of the law to kill them. We find this the case in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holstein, Switzerland, etc. How plainly this shows to us that due precaution is very necessary. We cannot be too careful in protecting ourselves from any disease that tends to injure our trade; and while we are free, let us keep so, and our meats will be gaining high favor in rightful markets. Canada beef will soon be at the head of the list, as healthy and good meat from a healthy and good country will be the cry, so let us be ready to give the supply, even now.

VIATOR, Westminster.

Seed, Stock, etc.

SIR,—There were fifty-three bushels of "Lost Nation" wheat sown in the vicinity of this village last spring, and the result was an average of forty bushels per acre of very excellent quality.

Will you kindly inform me whether, in making fertilizer from bones and sulphuric acid, wood ashes will act well as a drier instead of gypsum, as recommended in your last issue.

Farmers here are beginning to realize the necessity for improving their cattle. Efforts will be made to secure from your Province some thoroughbred Durhams this spring. Working oxen and steers are being purchased here for the States; fair prices are paid for them.

J. P. G., Danville, Quebec.

[Wood ashes will answer for a drier for superphosphate, although they contain an alkali that would tend to injure the superphosphate.]

Swallow Manure.

SIR,—Would you be kind enough to answer the following questions?

1. If I can use swallow manure on a watermelon patch, or is it too strong? I have a wagon-load of it; we chopped a big hollow elm down, which was 5 feet across the stump; the swallows used to sleep in it at night in summer. It might be that you never heard of such a thing, but it is a fact.

2. How can I raise watermelons successfully on heavy clay soil, how far apart the hills, how many plants to the hill, and whether I am to keep off the suckers? Also, could I use bone-ashes on the watermelon patch (if I could not use the swallow manure), and of what value are they?

N. M., Chippewa.

[In your hollow elm tree you have discovered a valuable mine. Swallow manure is a guano. It is best to compost it with some other matter that is less fertile. Leaf-mould or dried loam would be greatly improved by an admixture of fowl manure. Heavy clay soil should be thoroughly cultivated for the growing of melons. The hills should be about four feet apart, and four plants in the hill. Bone-ashes or the swallow manure compost may be used as a fertilizer for the melon crop; but when it is put in the hill it must be well covered with earth before sowing the seed, so that the manure and seed be not suffered to come in contact.]

From Arkansas.

SIR,—Some time ago I let a mare into the fields when she was quite fresh, and when I went to feed her I noticed a very bad cut on the back part of one of her front feet. It looks as if one of her hind feet had caught in it and tore part of the flesh and hoof off. I then put her in the stable, dressed the wound with coal oil and turpentine, and bound the foot up. A neighbor said we should take the cloth off and let the mare out, but keep putting on the coal oil and turpentine. We did so, but the foot is not getting better. Another person told us to put on a paste of white lead to keep the dirt out. There is a piece of loose flesh and hoof; do you think it advisable to cut it off, and could you tell me how to cure it? There is no veterinary surgeon here, so I shall be glad of an answer through your valuable paper. I have tried to get you some subscribers, but did not succeed.

[We think it would be well to cut off this lump. Then dress the wound as follows: Apply Friar's balsam with a feather once a day; also apply once a day a mixture made of sulphate of zinc 2 drams, acetate plumbi 2 drams, carbolic acid 1 dram, soft water 12 ounces. It might be well, if the horse is working, to put some pine tar on the sore before leaving the stable, which will keep out the dirt.]

Bloody Flux.

J. S., of Wanstead, wishes to know the cause of and treatment for murrain or bloody flux, which is very common in his neighborhood.

[It is an inflammation having a tendency to terminate in ulceration of the mucous membranes of the large and sometimes small intestines. It may be caused by bad food or putrid water; some pastures, especially on low, flat ground, or where much shaded by shrubby trees, have a tendency to produce it.]

The first signs are shivering, dullness, varied temperature of the body, quick pulse, the coat stares and dry, the animal will be hide-bound and grind its teeth; the back is arched, there is a disinclination to move, rumination is suspended, and at short intervals discharges a quantity of thin excrementitious material, mixed with pellets of hard faeces and blood. There is generally much straining and irritation of the rectum, causing it to protrude, when it will appear red and sore. As the disease advances the rectum becomes paralyzed, and the faeces (which are of a very offensive odor) will come away involuntarily; the eyes soon become dim and sunken, and the animal dies.

TREATMENT.

Give about a pint of raw linseed oil, followed by doses of opium and antacids. If these should not succeed, you will give doses of sulphate of copper or sulphate of iron or alum. Careful dieting is quite as necessary as other treatment. Any food may be given that is nutritive and easily digested.]

Manufacturing Sorghum.

SIR,—Will you please inform me how to refine sugar-cane molasses down to sugar, and I will be much obliged. We had one acre last year, and intend to go into it strong.

J. B., Crinan, Ont.

[In reply to an old subscriber, who asks what is the best sugar-cane, and how it is saved and the sugar manufactured from it, we give the following from a U. S. writer:

The cane sorghum should be perfectly ripe for harvest; the ripest will produce the best sugar. In the present season the cane which stood the longest made the largest proportion of sugar. If the cane is not ripe before frost, it will pay to cut, but the planter must not expect as good a quality of product. Do not, therefore, procure seed of a late growth. The Minnesota early amber is, without doubt, the earliest sort known, as well as the richest in saccharine matter. By letting the cane season a while in the field, after cutting and before pressing, a better quality of sugar is obtained. The useless properties seem to dry out, and nothing like as much green, gummy scum rises in boiling, as is the case if the cane is worked immediately after cutting. The leaves must not be stripped off during the cutting process, or a loss is occasioned; two or three weeks is about the time for curing. If not frozen, the cane will keep for two months. Freezing injures the quality. Frozen cane should be worked as soon as possible. If by splitting a cane the pith is found to have a greenish appearance, it indicates injury by freezing. The natural color is white. When going to the mill the seed-heads must be cut about one foot from the head and then dried. The cane should be dry when hauled to the mill or sheds. All broken cane will sour and damage the product.]

Mound-Builders on Cattle.

SIR,—Please inform me through your columns of the best way to rid my cattle of mound-builders or grubs in the back.

J. R., Ont.

[In order to wage a successful war against the mound-builders on the backs of cattle, it is a matter of choice whether to employ cold or red-hot steel. A narrow-bladed, small knife, or a pen-knife, or a darning-needle, may be inserted through the centre of the mountain, and will be sure to destroy the pest, whose contents may be squeezed out, or he may be left to depart piecemeal. Puncturing with a narrow, pointed hot iron will have the same effect, but is apt to cause more pain to the cow. Unless these larvae are present in large quantities, they are usually not of any importance to the well-doing of cattle.]

Swiss Oats.

SIR,—Last year I sent to Scotland and had one pound of the Swiss oats mailed to me. From these I raised 91 pounds. They are very early, and the straw is much whiter than the straw of all other oats I have seen. They will be of advantage on account of their early maturity.

A. K., Westminster.

A Stamp Duty.

SIR,—Don't you think it would be a good thing for the Government to place a duty on all patent medicines in the Dominion? It would raise a good revenue, and should the duty curtail the sale, I do not think the public would be injured to any great extent. Say from 10 to 12½ cents on the dollar.

C. P., Myrtle P.O.

SIR,—I have a horse nine years of age—a free eater, not hard to keep, but he is very tender-skinned and hide-bound, and at times for three or four days together is somewhat stupid. His belly is hard and drawn up. His blood is bad, for calks or galls do not heal readily, and when worked hard he sweats freely. If you can let me know through the next ADVOCATE what to give him, you will much oblige.

W., Fingal, Ont.

[Give your horse a dose of purgative medicine composed of the following: Six drams of aloes, two drams of carbonate soda and one dram of ginger. This is to be dissolved in a pint of warm water and given as a drench while fasting. Then give a powder every second night composed of the following: Sulphate iron, one dram; gentian, one dram, and ginger half a dram, in hot bran mash. It would be well to give him a little boiled flaxseed two or three times a week in his feed.]