

Coming to America for Horses.

The following interesting note, which should encourage those who, wisely, we think, continue to devote attention to the rearing of good horses, appears in the Scottish Farmer of Glasgow for June 15:—

"Harness horses are so scarce in this country that firms in want of the best class of such are under the necessity of going to America to have their needs supplied. In view of complaints about depressed agriculture, there is a strange irony in all this importation of foreign products—alive and dead—animal and vegetable. Surely, if matters were properly adjusted, Great Britain might breed all the carriage horses she wants, and have a good many to spare for others. Until adjustments do take place matters will remain as at present, and job-masters be compelled to go far a-field to find the best class of carriage horses. Amongst recent travellers on this errand are:—Messrs. Thomas Galloway, Glenlowrum, Bearsden, and Andrew Hunter, Braehead, Cathcart, two of the directors of Messrs. Alex. Gemmell & Sons (Ltd.), Ayr. These gentlemen, along with Mr. Johnston, of Belfast, sailed for New York a week ago to select and purchase the best class of carriage horses the United States and Canada can produce. That success may attend their efforts is the general desire, but we want to know why we cannot breed better carriage horses here than any foreign country whatsoever."

Nor is the enquiry for top quality horses confined to the lighter sorts; the outlook for heavy draught horses seems even more buoyant in America. People have largely ceased breeding both the light and heavy sorts. One farmer told the writer last week that a good draught stallion was not coming into his district at all this season. The result is not hard to see.

FARM.

Economy in Feeding Hogs.

Profit comes from both ends of a business: 1st, by keeping the cost of production at a minimum, and 2nd, by exchanging produce for the greatest possible amount of return. One of the serious items of production on a farm is that of labor; therefore it is obvious that the least labor, compatible with good results, that is necessary in producing a product, the more profit will that product yield.

There has been a good deal spoken and written, during the last few years, in favor of soiling dairy stock, which practice we all agree as being commendable, especially in these days of more or less summer drought. The advantage, however, in soiling dairy stock is not in lessening labor, as it often increases it, but by enabling farmers to keep more stock and in better condition than could otherwise be supported on the same amount of land.

Soiling hogs might well be practiced much more than it now is with good results. During the early part of the season, while the grass is green and succulent, hogs do well on pasture, but when the grass becomes dry, feeding of some sort must be done in order to keep them thriving. Feeding hogs largely upon grain every day they live is an expensive plan, because of what the food costs besides the labor involved in preparing it. If provision were made to have some of the many soiling crops always coming in, pigs could be very cheaply raised. The first crops fit to mow will be the clovers, red, and lucerne, either of which is much relished and productive of rapid growth until nearly the blossoming stage. If these are mown early in the season, it will be only the course of a month or so till a second cutting will be ready. This is especially true of lucerne, which may be mown five or six times during a season. When these are not accessible, oats, peas, vetches, etc., serve as suitable substitutes if cut in the green state; of these oats are the least palatable, but they serve a good purpose when sown among peas and tares, to keep them up so that they can be easily mown. As soon as sweet corn can be obtained, it may take the place of all other green food. The hogs will eat the stalks, leaves and ears, until they become quite hard. It had better be cut up finely, but the pigs will not refuse the whole stalks. Prof. Thos. Shaw, of the Minnesota Experiment Station, speaks a good word, in the Ohio Farmer, for squashes and pumpkins as hog feed. An enormous crop can be grown upon an acre, and they are much relished by hogs either boiled or raw. If fed raw to any stock, the seeds should be first removed, as they have a powerful action upon the kidneys, which shows itself in weakness of the back. Besides speaking favorably of mangels and turnips, the Professor tells of the value of rape, now becoming so popular for sheep feeding. He says: "Pigs are very fond of it, and they do well on it. A large amount of rape can be grown upon an acre of rich land, as much in many instances as 12 tons. Rape has great fattening properties for any kind of live stock, and pigs are no exception to the rule. They may not, however, devour it ravenously at first, but they will soon become accustomed to it and consume it greedily."

Although it is now too late in the season to sow these crops, except rape, most farmers have some of them at least, which, if not too far from the hog pen or yard, can be used to good advantage. Those who practice soiling cows will find a great advantage in giving the hogs a share along with the skim milk or whey.

Some Noxious Weeds, and How to Combat Them.

One has not far to travel at this time of year to be forcibly impressed with the enormous waste of fertility and interruption to the growing of grain crops that simply a few of the most pernicious weeds inflict upon many farms. Perhaps the most noticeable at this season are wild mustard and ox-eye daisy, while a short time from now will reveal the bright yellow heads of the sow thistle. Canada thistles are always with us, and are more uniformly spread over the country than any of the others.

Until within the last few years the Canada thistle was looked upon as one of the very worst of weeds, but since more careful study has been given its mode of growth and means of eradication, it is becoming less and less dreaded. At this season much can be done towards destroying thistles in permanent pastures. They should be mown with a scythe or mower just before they reach the blossoming stage. It is important that fence corners, road sides, bush plots, and all out-of-the-way places be given the needed attention to hinder the thistles going to seed. When a farm has become infested, the crops in which thistles have opportunity to ripen their seeds should be dropped out of the rotation until infested fields have been dealt with. As soon as the harvest is off, the land should be ploughed shallowly. This cuts off the plants above the creeping root-stalks. The field should then be cultivated with a sharp cultivator at each appearance of the plants above ground. If this is done faithfully, a well-worked hoed crop the following season will leave a previously very thistly field in tolerably clean condition. On the summer-fallow, ploughing down carefully at the blossoming stage, with subsequent cultivation, has been found very effective. In corn and roots use the cultivator and hoe faithfully.

The *sow thistle* is a much harder plant to exterminate than the foregoing, and also much more injurious to grain crops in which it exists. In a very few years after it first appears in a field it so completely takes possession of the ground—particularly in patches—that everything else is crowded out. There are several varieties of this weed, but they are generally divided into two—the annual and perennial, the latter of which is most dreaded. The methods of destroying this weed resemble those for eradicating Canada thistles, except that two hoed crops should follow in succession; or a summer-fallow and then a hoed crop.

The *ox-eye daisy*, although much admired in cities and towns, for its beauty, is a pernicious and much-to-be-dreaded weed. It resembles the foregoing inasmuch as it is of perennial duration, but differs from them in being propagated only by seeds, which are very numerous in every head. The methods of destroying ox-eye daisy are as follows: As it infests meadows, they, as well as permanent pastures, should be dropped out of the rotation, as far as is practicable, until the infested fields have been dealt with. An infested pasture, or meadow, should be ploughed before the flowers go to seed. The field should be then sown to rape, or corn, sown in drills, and kept thoroughly cultivated. Then follow with a hoed crop the next season. An infested grain field should be ploughed lightly after harvest; then harrow several times during the autumn, and plough deeply before winter. Follow with one or two hoed crops—well cared for, or the first season might be given to summer-fallow, either bare or in conjunction with green manure; such as buckwheat, which would have a smothering tendency. In sections or fields where this weed is just beginning to show itself, no pains should be spared to hinder the maturing of the seed. The flowers can be readily seen, which will render hand-pulling a comparatively easy task, when not too numerous. After the seeds have fallen, the aim should be to induce their germination as soon as possible, and then destroy the plants by cultivation.

Wild mustard has become a great "eyesore" in many districts. It differs from the foregoing inasmuch as it is of annual duration. It is one of the most difficult plants to eradicate where it once gains a foothold. This is due to the extraordinary vitality of the seeds, which are of such an oily nature that they will lie fifty years in the soil and afterwards germinate when brought near the surface. For this reason the plants should not be allowed to seed, and should the seed have fallen, it should be the object of the agriculturist to induce germination at a time in which the plants can be readily destroyed.

We find wild mustard most troublesome in spring grain crops. A method of eradication will, then, be to drop spring cereal crops out of the rotation, as far as practicable, until the infested fields have been subjected to a cleaning process. Grow hoed crops at the same time to the greatest possible extent. Summer-fallowing, especially in a moist season, is the best means of eradication. Each ploughing should be deeper than the foregoing, so that a new layer of soil will be brought to the surface. Intersperse the ploughings by thorough surface cultivation. There is no objection, however, to sowing a green crop towards the end of the season, such as rape, millet, or buckwheat, which may be ploughed under late in the autumn. This will supply humus for the next crop. Follow with a hoed crop, if practicable, or sow spring wheat or barley, seeded to clover and timothy. The grain crop should be gone through for the purpose of

hand-pulling all the mustard plants that show themselves. If they are too numerous for this the crop should be mown for hay, or if the land be "run out," plough down for green manure before the mustard has nearly ripened its seeds.

It is a safe rule to go carefully over all grain fields each year to hand-pull or "spud" out every bad weed that shows itself. If this were done by every farmer, we would not see the golden-hued field of mustard or sow thistle, nor the snowy flower-beds of ox-eye daisy which are now interspersed throughout this and other countries where grain growing has been the chief line of agriculture.

The last weed we will touch is *couch grass*, which is much less dreaded now than it was several years ago. Such a season as we are now having—dry and hot—offers a favorable opportunity of killing this weed by means of the bare fallow. If the field is well-worked, so as to draw all the plants, with their roots, to the surface, and then kept moving every few days by means of the harrow or cultivator, there is nothing to hinder a fairly complete eradication. It is advisable, however, to rake off and burn all the plants possible once or twice during the season. The objection to this method is that it requires a great deal of labor. An easier plan, which is more effective, especially in a moist season, is that of seeding with buckwheat, which goes a long way towards smothering the grass. Some prefer ploughing the buckwheat down when in bloom; but we have found better results from allowing the buckwheat to ripen, and harvest it. Follow, if possible, with a hoed crop, well looked after.

Provide for the Stock in Case of Drought.

The experience of the last few years teaches us, especially in some sections, that the extent of a crop depends very much upon the mechanical condition of the soil. The drought of former years is being duplicated in this, '95, except that it is being felt much earlier in the season, throughout considerable areas of the country, which is resulting in a very short hay and, we may also add, straw crop. Of course nothing can be done to aid these after the season of growth commences in the spring, except they be given a coating of solvent fertilizer; but with the crops that must take the place of these, especially the hay, much can be done to overcome the effects of drought. Corn and root crops must receive continuous attention so long as the weather remains so dry. The cultivator should go through the crop at least once a week, so that as little surface evaporation as possible will take place. If this is done very early in the morning, after heavy dews, and always after showers, the result will be surprising when compared with fields that are neglected.

There is yet time to provide for something in the way of a fodder crop. The sooner hay is cut after July 1st the better, and except in the case of a fairly good show for an aftermath of clover, a good-sized field may be made to yield a nice crop of millet for winter feed, or rape for fall feed. For either of these, the surface, after being ploughed, should be cultivated and worked down very fine. Now, if there happens to come a nice rain, as is usual about the commencement of haying, the seed will sprout and come up almost immediately, and in all probability produce a nice crop of fodder.

The millet should be sown broadcast at the rate of about 40 pounds per acre; after which the ground should be immediately harrowed and rolled. If rape is the crop to be sown, about five pounds per acre makes a liberal seeding. Although to break up a field and sow it right in the midst of haying seems like an almost impossible thing, yet we must have some fodder for the stock next autumn and winter, which must be secured in some way or the stock will suffer. And as this extra crop will only be needed when the task of haying will be a light one, the few days interruption will not be a serious matter.

DAIRY.

Farm Dairying.

[From a Farmers' Institute address delivered by Mr. Joseph Yuill, of Carleton Place.]

Mr. Yuill told how butter was made on his farm, but he did not advocate making butter on the farm as a system, nor making butter in warm weather for export. He considered cheesemaking the grand industry of this country. Had it not been for the amount of money received for cheese and butter, Canada would be in a much more depressed state.

He recommended making cheese in summer and butter in winter. The cheese should be made in factories, some of which should be closed and others used for making butter in winter. But no matter whether the milk is sent to the cheese factory or to the butter factory, it should be sent in the very best possible shape, so as to give the cheesemakers or buttermakers an opportunity to produce the very best possible article, and if the cheese or buttermaker sends back a can of milk as not being up to the required standard, he should not be blamed for it. Every patron should warn the cheese or buttermaker that if from any cause their milk did not arrive at the factory in proper condition, they would take it as a personal favor if it were returned.

But, for the benefit of those who were not within reach of a cheese factory or creamery, he told how