

Sheep-Dog trials at Millom.

Certainly the largest and best exhibits of dogs yet held in connection with this Society were those brought together in New Market Hall on New Year's Day, 1881. The proceedings were opened in the morning with a trial of working Sheep-dogs, in which 15 competed. The judges were Messrs. W. Lewthwaite, Broadgate; H. Caddy, Rougholm; and W. L. Benn, Hexham—all practical agriculturists. Three sheep—a Herdwick, a Scotch, and a half-bred—were allotted to each dog, and were let out from a pen on the top of a hilly field, the man and dog standing at the bottom, and out of sight of the sheep. A signal, by flag, was given to the man, when he sent up the dog to find and fetch the sheep down to him. This was a piece of work in which most of the dogs failed. The sheep usually made for the gate by which they had been driven into the field, got into the corner, and as the dogs could not see their masters, or receive instructions from them, most of them failed to dislodge the sheep, and were crossed out. When, however, they took down the sheep, they had then to drive them through a gap in the fence into a second field, thence along this for about 150 yards, through another gap into a third field, and then recover them, and bring them back to the end of the second field, were a pen of open hurdles, with a narrow entrance, had been erected, and place the sheep in the pen. Only two out of the fifteen dogs succeeded in penning in the allotted time—eight minutes—and one of these was disqualified, as it twice bit the sheep. Most of the dogs were also noisy during the work. The first prize bitch was greatly admired for her sagacity. "Go fetch," said her master, and she soon brought the sheep to him, keeping at a safe distance, never close enough to make them break, ever watchful, yet kind, conciliating, not forcing. The second prize, Mr. Newby's Guilty, worked very nicely, but the sheep were wild at the pen, and although two were penned in the stipulated time, they got out again whilst the dog was recovering the third.—*Live Stock Journal, (Eng.)*

A singular disease.

Sir.—You would confer a very great favor upon many of your readers if you could inform them as to the probable nature of the disease which is raging among cattle in this vicinity, and indicate an effectual mode of treating the same. Of late, cows and horses have been dying in large numbers in and near our village of a very strange disease which proves fatal generally in about 24 hours. Cattle affected by this disease become feverish and tremble as though they were cold; their hearts beat quickly and loudly, their eyes stick out of the head and shine as glass; the skin, especially on the back, sticks tightly to the bones; they become very constipated or the very opposite, and what they pass is of a dark color and very fetid. They appear sore all over and do not like to be touched. They continue to eat and to drink, especially to drink, as they appear very thirsty. There are indications of poisoning. Could it be that they ate poisonous weeds in this dry season when pastures are very bare, and they graze mostly along a river below a large tannery? Are wild parsnips or carrots poisonous to cows? Will cows eat them?

CHARLES BROUILLETTE.

New Glasgow, Q., July 9th, 1881.

Your description corresponds closely with the history of one form of the disease known as *anthrax* or charbon. This is a disease which is due to a specific poison, which, entering the body from without, sets up the disease, and each cow case forms a centre of infection. You will best combat the disease in the mean-time by preventative measures, 1st, by having all the carcasses of the animals which have died buried seven or eight feet deep, or, which is better, burned; and 2nd, you will change the pasture land entirely, and have that now used ploughed deeply. You will do well to consult personally on the land with the best veterinarian within reach.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sir.—Will you permit an "Old Agriculturist," who has retired from the independent life of a farmer, and who is now an interested observer of current events, to offer a few remarks on subjects which particularly interest agriculturists in the Province of Quebec.

Just now there is a considerable degree of excitement on the "Beet Root" question, and the cultivation and manufacture into sugar of that valuable production of the soil.

Like all others in this country, I am quite ignorant of the process and profits of sugar making. In France, Germany and other European countries, it has been tolerably successful; the expectation of those who are engaged in its introduction into Canada, will, I trust, be realised. I must confess, however, regarding the movement from a farmer's stand point, I have my doubts as to the ultimate benefit to the grower. I do not question the suitability of the climate and soil, to produce good crops of the beet-root. I believe that, with abundance of manure, and good cultivation from the beginning to the end, fair average crops may be realised, which will help to fill the pockets of the producer for the time being, and which would be satisfactory, if the thing could be repeated year after year.

To grow the beet well, the ground must be in a high state of cultivation, manured unsparingly, and the crop attended to, so long as the drill harrow can be safely used; hand hoeing and thinning are indispensable to success.

I take it for granted promoters of the movement will have the farmers instructed in its culture, otherwise, miserable failures will be the result and the whole thing will collapse.

The farmer who lives within a moderate radius of the mill, has every advantage over his more distant neighbor: his cartage is less, and he can readily use the refuse after the extraction of the saccharine matter. I have no knowledge of the value of such refuse for cattle food, nor how far it may be turned to account to recuperate the soil after its deterioration on growing the crop.

The beet, like other root crops, tends to exhaust the land, while it prepares it for the subsequent production of grain and grass in rotation. In the absence of experience, I should fear that in a few years the soil would require manure, far in excess of that produced on the farm, and that the deficit must be made good by the purchase of artificial manures. My old fashioned ideas as to stock feeding the whole productions of the farm except grain, may prejudice me against the growing of the beet root.

It is premature to offer an opinion on the project or to attempt to foretell the result. Let us hope for the best, and use every effort to forward the agricultural interests of our country. A free discussion on all subjects concerning the cultivation of the soil, cannot fail to be beneficial. We want light, let us have it.

I observe the forced sale of "the Franklin Beet sugar manufacturing Co.'s" property, is advertised at Boston.

AN OLD FARMER.

Sir.—The readers of your journal in this county have been much pleased by your articles on the protection of insectivorous birds, and especially by the able letter of l'Abbé Provancher which appeared in your April number. I trust that you will still continue to keep the subject before your readers, as it is only by impressing the farmer with an idea of the value of their birds that we can hope to see them saved from the gun in the hands of the farmer's boy.

I see by the papers, that in the Montreal district, Mr. Gailley has secured quite a number of convictions, and the birds there are now very well protected. By a little care, the magistrates throughout the Province could put a stop to the shooting and so save the country large sums of money.

I may relate a case which came under my notice this spring, which shows with what ignorance the farmers treat these birds, and I have no doubt but that hundred of similar cases have occurred.

A farmer in the county of Argenteuil, whom I am in the habit of visiting, two years since planted a young orchard near his house. This spring, on again visiting him, I found all the trees dead. On asking him the reason of this, he replied that, these wood-peckers had killed his trees, that he had shot as many of them as possible, but still could not prevent them from picking at the collars of his trees. I at once broke a tree-shoot off, showed him the tracks of the Apple Tree Borer in the wood, and explained to