

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Miscellaneous.

WEIGHT OF ONIONS.

How many pounds are there in a bushel of onions? J. R.

Ans.—In Canada a bushel of onions weighs fifty pounds. In the States the legal weight varies from forty-eight to fifty-six pounds.

HOLIDAYS.

1. How many holidays would a farm hand have from the first of April until the end of October?

2. Is Labor Day a farm holiday?

ONTARIO.

Ans.—1. Sundays, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Victoria Day, Dominion Day and Labor Day; also any day appointed by proclamation of the Governor-General or Lieut.-Governor as a public holiday, or for a general fast or thanksgiving.

2. Yes. But the observance of this and the other statutory holidays above mentioned may be regulated by agreement between the parties, either express or implied, and they are generally to be taken subject to the doing of such routine work ("chores") as must of necessity be attended to every day.

HARDWOOD ASHES ON WHEAT.

I have a large pile of hardwood ashes. Which will pay best, to spread them on fall wheat or spread them on spring crop? A. E. W.

Ans.—Wood ashes are valuable as a fertilizer, because of the potash and lime they contain. The potash is in a readily available form, and may be used at once by the growing plants. It is also quickly absorbed by certain chemical constituents of the soil, and very little is ever lost by them. Most soils, unless it be those of a very sandy nature, contain sufficient potash for the growing of fall wheat, but such crops as beans, peas, potatoes, small fruits, and fruit trees, etc., respond freely to potash manures. However, unless the fall wheat ground is to be seeded with clover, I would recommend wood ashes to be used in the spring in connection with some of the above-mentioned crops. I would more especially recommend that wood ashes be incorporated in the soil by means of the harrow and cultivator, which cannot now be done on the fall wheat ground.

R. HARCOURT.

Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph.

WARTS—ORIGIN OF OXFORD SHEEP.

1. Yearling bull has warts on his body and head, one big one on his eyelid. What medicine would you use to remove them?

2. Of what breeds are the Oxford Down sheep made up?

We have taken the "Farmer's Advocate" for about ten years. We like it all the better as a weekly. Please answer these questions in your paper? W. B.

Ans.—1. If the warts have a slim base they may be safely clipped off with a pair of sharp scissors, and by touching the wound with a little caustic potash the roots will be burned out, or they may be taken off by tying a horse hair or a silk thread tightly around the neck of the wart, which stops the circulation of blood and causes the wart to slough off.

2. The Oxford Downs are said to have originated in a cross of Cotswold rams upon Hampshire Down ewes, and to a limited extent probably on Southdown ewes. These crosses cannot be traced beyond the year 1833, and it is claimed that no outside blood has been introduced since 1854. The improvement of the breed was effected by crosses sometimes from one parent breed and sometimes from the other, but more commonly Cotswold males were used.

Peter Newell, the artist, has a young son who seems to possess the faculty of making ready and cogent replies. Penetrating the kitchen, recently, with a normal small boy appetite, he purloined a bulky slice of cake and was disposing of it, when he was detected by the cook, a person of generous proportions and formidable aspect.

"Ah! there, your young scapegrace," she exclaimed in remonstrating tones. "I've caught ye! What's to prevent me from telling your mother on ye, staling cake like a thief?"

"Honor, Bridget, honor," replied the youth, taking another bite. "Don't you know there is honor among thieves?"

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Veterinary.

LEUCORRHEA.

I have an old mare troubled with "whites." I have on several occasions washed the womb out with warm water, and have given sulphate of iron and copper, internally. H. M. W.

Ans.—Leucorrhoea is very hard to treat, especially in an old mare. The womb should be flushed out daily with a solution of 40 grains bichloride of mercury (corrosive sublimate) to a gallon of water. About two gallons of this solution should be heated to about 100 degrees Fahr. and injected into the womb with an injection pump once daily. Give her internally one dram each sulphate of iron and sulphate of copper twice daily. If she become constipated, give a pint of raw linseed oil. Recovery is slow, and treatment must be kept up until the discharge ceases. V.

SWOLLEN FETLOCK—THRUSH.

1. Horse got hind pastern burned with a rope. The wound has healed, but the fetlock is badly swollen.

2. Mare has had thrush for several years and feet were badly contracted. She has been without shoes on grass all summer, and feet have spread. Can the thrush be cured? F. S. S.

Ans.—1. Burns of this kind are usually followed by enlargements, which are hard to remove. Rub the part once daily with the following: Two drams each biniodide of mercury and iodide of potassium to eight ounces water. If it blisters, discontinue its use for a few days and repeat. It takes a long time to reduce these swellings, so it will require both patience and attention.

2. I think you are mistaken in saying your mare has had thrush for several years. She may have had repeated attacks, but the disease existing constantly for that time would result in the entire destruction of the frog. To cure, clean out the cleft of the frog thoroughly, and then put in some calomel every second day, working it down to the bottom of the cleft with the back of a knife blade or other blunt instrument. V.

Miscellaneous.

WILD OATS.

Three years ago I had a field badly infested with wild oats. I plowed it in the fall and worked it up well the following spring, plowed for corn, but the corn failed, and I put wheat in the following fall after plowing again. When the wheat grew it was thick with wild oats. Should the oats not have been killed during the summer the land was idle?

FARMER.

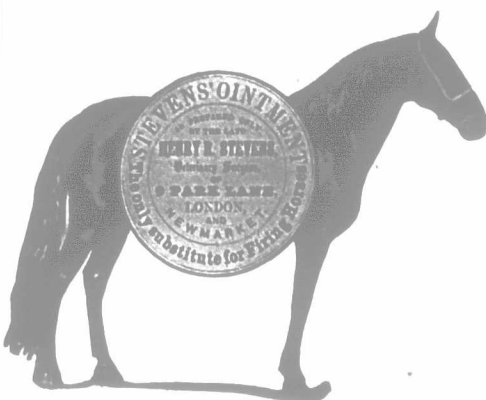
Ans. This case is not remarkable, as the plowing in the fall of stubble where wild oats have grown simply puts the seed in storage, to be drawn on for future crops, just as was the case cited above. Where wild oats grow in a field, give a shallow cultivation with the gang plow, disk or cultivator, as soon as the crop is on, then when the seed has sprouted plow. The following spring there will probably be more oats to grow, which should be treated in the same way. Very often oats escape being destroyed in a summer fallow on account of the land being worked too frequently, and because of the land becoming dried out so that seeds cannot sprout. Get such seeds near the surface, then get them to germinate, and then tear them out.

TRADE NOTE.

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It seems almost incredible that such magnificent pianos can be sold for such figures as are quoted by Ye Olde Firm of Heintzman & Co. In another column of this issue these prices do not represent the value of the instruments, the first purchasers paid the profit, and exigencies of business have again thrust these instruments upon the market. They are bargains now, all in the best possible condition, and will last and rack well for years. Read the announcement.

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