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Agriculture.

For the "Agriculturist."

FAILURE OF THE STRAWBERRY CROPS.

This appears to be a general thing here in this vicinity. American cultivators have not been troubled with this intruder previous to this year—most all were anticipating a good crop. But such are the disappointments in the pursuit of fruit raising, as well as flowers, and all other like things in life or the material world. However, let us not be discouraged, let us try to find a remedy against this fellow next season. I am glad the AGRICULTURIST is hunting after him or endeavoring to find out a remedy right at home.

These farmers' clubs are very good to advance or promote the interests of the farming community, at least that is my opinion, but I am forgetting what I began about. Robert Thompson is a practical and scientific gardener in the old world, says, the strawberry is frequently attacked by snails and slugs, and by the grubs of the spotted garden gnat (Tipula Maculosa) which cut off the flower stalks by the ground, and the larvae of Heliopsis lappula, Otiorhynchus tenacicus, and various other insects prey upon the roots. For snails and slugs, dusting with newly slacked lime is the best remedy and when the plants are seriously attacked at the roots, it is generally better to form a new plantation than attempt to combat the evil. The ground should afterward be deeply trenched in order to bury the insects. Mr. Thompson gives no other remedy than newly slacked lime. Helioleone and lime generally answer for the same purpose. In reference to the spotted gnat that cuts the flower stalks off, if he likes the stem below it is likely he would cut it off anywhere higher or lower. This is the best information I can give at present. If any of the readers of the AGRICULTURIST find out anything better I should be pleased to read it.

Yours, &c.,

JOHN BEBBINGTON,

Gardener.

Fredericton, July 1st, 1878.

From all parts of the Province we hear the most satisfactory accounts of the crops, and the prospect at present is that they will be far more than average. The grass is generally very good. On some high laying lands it is perhaps thin and seems to have suffered from the drought last summer, and the want of the usual covering of snow during a part of the winter, but this loss is more than made up on other fields; the intervals and islands are particularly good. Hay making will begin in some localities immediately, being at least a week or ten days earlier than usual. The quantity of wheat sown is larger than for many years. It is rather early to form an opinion of the yield, but generally it looks well. We have not heard of the dreaded potato-bug having put in an appearance yet.

GREAT SALE OF SHORT-HORNS.

To put up for sale by auction at one time, without any reserve, 195 high-bred Short-horns was in these times a very bold thing to do, but it has been done, and with great success. At Winchester, Kentucky, on Wednesday and Thursday of last week, the entire Herd of Mr. B. B. Groom was sold at the hammer for cash down, and a sum exceeding \$80,000 was the realized amount. The Herd was of the most mixed character; a good many of very high pedigrees, of great individual merit, and in admirable condition; others, with two of these qualities, but lacking in the third; others with one of them, but lacking in the other two; and a good sprinkling that had little to recommend them. The company present was gathered from far and wide over the North American Continent; great interest attached to the sale among intelligent farmers; every animal on the catalogue was sold after a brisk competition; not the slightest suspicion of by-bidding attached to the conductors of the sale; and the whole affair went off with the highest satisfaction to all interested, whether buyers or sellers.

Of the 195 Short-horns sold—126 were females and 69 males.

Of the 126 females, 28 were non-breeders, very aged, or out of health—and these were exceedingly well sold for \$2,730, or an average of \$97 per head. The remaining 98 females produced \$54,630, or an average of \$557 per head—an average which, though much below old prices, cannot but be regarded, under all the circumstances, as universally satisfactory. The 69 bulls and bull calves appear to have realized over \$23,000—or the satisfactory average, under all the circumstances, of \$334 per head.

The Agriculturist.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

ANDREW LIPSETT, Publisher.

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THE KIND OF EDUCATION.

Our country is filled with unemployed men, and the great question to-day asking for a solution is, What shall be done with these men, or rather what shall these men do? The only answer, in my judgement, is they must cultivate the soil. Farming must be elevated in its character, so that those who work the land will have a honest pride in their business. They must educate their children how to cultivate the soil. They must not be educated simply to be ministers, or lawyers, or doctors, but they must be educated to be farmers. It must be understood that education is as necessary to till the soil as to follow any other business or profession in the world. We must get rid of the idea that education unites one for labor. There are to-day hundreds of graduates of Harvard and Yale other colleges who are agents for sewing-machine companies, solicitors for insurance, clerks, copyists; in short performing menial service. They seem to be willing to do anything that can be done in the house, or in a town, but avoid farming as they would a leprosy. Every young man educated in this way is simply ruined. What little good sense he has is educated out of him. It is a thousand times better to have good sense without education, than education without good sense. Give your sons an education that will enable them to help themselves—that is education that will be of real use. Let them be taught to help themselves; that it is disgraceful to be idle; that only the useful are honorable.—Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll.

GIVE US A BREED OF WALKING HORSES.

The Germantown Telegraph is sound on this question of horses for farm use. It says: "What use are fast horses to farmers? Can they put them to work in the plow, harrow, cultivator, roller, reaping machine, cart or wagon? No. A storm might arise and the whole crop of hay would be ruined if they had to depend on 2.40 horses to haul it in. There is but one use that we can see that a farmer might put one to—sending for a doctor; but as farmers have very little occasion for this professional gentleman, and never get very sick, a slow and sure horse will answer better. Why then parade these horses at the head of the lists at agricultural fairs, and give them the biggest premiums? No wonder our practical farmers complain of this, while there is no premium at all for walking horses, which are a thousand times more useful—mean to the farmer and for general agricultural and industrial purposes. Thoroughbred horses have their uses, and we do not desire to utter a word against them, but many good words in their favor. They, however, must fill their own places, and work-horses theirs, and neither should be advocated to the exclusion of the other. Both should be recognized according to their value."

Bark lice are a great pest to young trees in many places, and what seems often surprising, are more injurious than borers and caterpillars combined. When in abundance on quite young trees, they draw a great amount of vigor away from them, and cause the trees to look thin in foliage and generally at a stand still. Wash of whale oil soap applied with a stiff brush is the best remedy known.

Fortunately, we hear but little complaint this year from the depredations of caterpillars; and we think from the active campaign these pests have made upon our orchards in the past three years, that we can dispense with them very well the present season. So far the prospects of an abundant yield of apples are most encouraging, and every body is looking forward to a season of comparative low prices for this luscious and healthy fruit to the people.—Maine Farmer.

Table with 2 columns: State and Bushels. Lists production for Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Texas, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, New York, and New England.

Total... 1,501,000,000. The rapidity with which producers have been pushing the old crop forward of late indicates that they are anxious to get rid of it before the next comes.

WARTS ON HORSE.

Ed. Globe:—I have a horse which has a wart on his jaw and one on the side behind the fore shoulder, where the belly-band goes round. I have tried most every thing, but with very little success. It seems to kill them for a little while, but they grow on again.—J. G.

Ans.—The reason the warts grow again is because you do not persevere in treating them long enough, but leave the roots alive. For a few days apply caustic, such as nitrate of silver, zinc-oxide, carbolic acid, or chloride of lime; the dead part of the wart should be pared away almost till blood starts. The caustic should then be applied again, the dead part cut away, and so on. If the warts have defied necks cut them off and cauterize the bases. Or instead of cutting them off, tie a waxed thread tightly around and let them fall off, as they will do in a few days.

A most instructive view of this sale for enterprising farmers is the comparative amounts realized for the respective families of Short-horns included in it. The 98 females sold in sound condition embraced two or more of 15 different well known families; and they took rank in the following order:—

First in the financial scale stands Mr. Bates' far-famed Wild Eyes family. Of it four cows were sold at \$2,800, \$2,600, \$1,900, and \$1,900 respectively—or an average of \$2,075 each.

Second comes the equally prized Bates family of Kirkingtons—four of which were sold at \$2,800, \$2,050, \$1,750, and \$500 respectively—or an average of \$1,625. But it is noticeable that the two low-priced ones were 11 and 12 years old respectively, and of doubtful usefulness.

Third stands the Bates Lally family, of which three were sold at \$1,550, \$1,325, and \$1,025 respectively—or an average of \$1,160.

Fourth came the Rose of Sharon, originally bred by Mr. Bates, but (domestic) in Kentucky by Mr. Abraham Renick. The animals sold of this family were either bred by Mr. Renick himself or by other eminent breeders from his stock. Six were sold at \$2,010, \$1,350, \$1,000, \$775, \$700, and \$510, respectively—two of two of them yearlings and four of their four years old. The average was therefore \$1,057 each.

Fifth came Mr. Bates' illustrious Oxford family—of which there were but two individuals, one five years old and the other twelve years. They fell under the hammer at the very low price of \$1,000 each, in consequence of doubts as to their fertility. The old Oxford cow had bull calves in 1877, included in this sale, and they brought respectively \$875, \$850, and \$1,400.

Sixth came the Bates Harts family, of which there were three sold at an average of \$600.

Seventh stands the Craggs family, also established by Mr. Bates. Fifteen of it sold, an average of \$500.

Eighth came the Bates Filbert family, of which eight were sold, at nearly the same average of \$500.

The remaining families rank in the following order:—

Fogarthopes... at an average of \$428. Victoria... at an average of 430. Places... at an average of 430. Desdemona... at an average of 390. Acorn... at an average of 342. Godefrida... at an average of 310. Young Marys... at an average of 245. Bell Tyles... at an average of 207. Dumas... at an average of 202. Blooms... at an average of 170.

Those skilled in Short-horn lore will perceive at once from these figures that straight-bred Bates families of good reputation are still in the ascendant on the American continent—and that the unprecedented and universal business depression now ruinously affecting property of all kinds, has fallen with most greater severity on Short-horns of mixed and nondescript pedigree than on those more carefully bred. The same lesson comes to us, and much more strongly, from Great Britain, Australia, and other countries where the Short-horn finds a home—and it is a lesson that should not be lost on Canadian farmers, who are wisely turning their attention to the supply of the best foreign markets with the most needed and most profitable cattle.—Toronto Globe.

SHORTHORNS VS. HEREFORDS.

A vigorous controversy has been going on in the American and English papers with respect to the relative merits of Short-horns and Herefords. We give below a part of one of the most able papers yet brought forth. It is from the pen of Rev. Mr. Beevor, who, living as he does in the midst of the Hereford country, may be supposed to be well up in the points of that breed of cattle. He says:—"I quite agree that it is a false state of things where cows are dried of nature's flow to allow their frame's expansion, whilst they are still credited with the fine offspring they have produced, for foster cows to rear for them. This helps to sell a breed, and the cows come certainly as a rule the sooner in season, and so it may be fairly argued that a plurality of calves is worth more than an abundance of milk. Lots of fine Short-horn cattle of ancient lineage which rear their own offspring most successfully, and as regards comparison of the Short-horn with the Hereford, how is it that I myself, living actually in the county of the white faces, dispose continually to my farming neighbours of bull calves to cross with their Hereford herds, as I am uniformly told, because 'it gives them so much more milk?' I have just sold a pair of Short-horn heifers to a Herefordshire Squire who lately owned a capital native herd, because his new bull has persuaded him to 'go in for a dairy.' And another rich neighbor—one of the staunchest to ridicule my pedigree Short-horn stock—is obliged to import his cows for the house from Gloucester! For miles around me the white, red, and roan short-horn dispute the pasture with the pale face. And this is in Herefordshire itself!

much, and, had I been a native, might have taken pride in keeping up the sort. I should certainly have aimed at more milk and a year's earlier ripening. It is here the cosmopolitan Short-horn beat them. Moreover, the bald-faced Herefords does not do as a rule to cross with—the issue is often so ungainly and plain; whereas the Short-horn rather improves the character of all ordinary cattle that it may cross with. Mr. Stratton's Short-horn bull Protector has beaten competition, I believe, all the most famous Hereford bulls in existence. This, however, of small import. There is no doubt that the Hereford of the show yard is unusually excellent. The beauty of the breed at the last Trade Fair was something wondrous. Still I ask why do my Hereford neighbors take a Short-horn cross?

There are no nurse cows kept on my place—all cows are reared by the dams. Butter and milk more or less, according to the season, are supplied to the house, and the cows now done calving are fit to kill for the butcher to-morrow. One cow is nursing a huge bull calf, gives half her milk to the house, is in calf again, and has a good depth of beef over her best points at this moment. She has about a couple of pounds of linseed oil cake daily, in addition to a chop of swedes and indifferent hay, all steamed. Her dam is alive, and I hope in calf, and had been delivered of seventeen live calves at fifteen years.—Toronto Globe.

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HAY MAKING.

Experienced farmers are well aware of the superior value of hay that has been cut when the grass is in its prime, and well saved; the bright green color, but little paler than before it was laid down in the swath, and the sweet fragrance it retains in the mow and the manager bear testimony to its excellence. But many farmers are sadly in need of that best instructor—experience, and the consequence is we often see hay fed to stock that is only fit for litter.

It has ripened its seed is less nutritious than straw that has been cut when the grain is still not to ripe. Canadian farmers can have hay for their stock fully as good as any save in England. There the moisture of the climate that is so favorable to the growth of grass, renders it often very difficult to save and have hay in prime condition. Here the hay making season is all that we can desire, and with regard to the quality of the hay, the English is unquestionably the best, having been mown and saved in the proper season, and hence more nutritious.

The only reason given by those who defer mowing till the grass is fully ripe is that by so doing they can have a greater quantity—more tons to the acre; but the greater quantity is dearly purchased by the inferior quality. Were the bulk of hay increased even one-tenth, we must bear in mind that bulk does not imply nutrition, and that there would be less flesh-forming and fattening qualities in the increased quantity of dry over ripe hay than in the less quantity mown and saved in the proper season and manner.

We need hardly give one word of caution against cutting too early. This is an extreme, people are not apt to fall into, but such a mistake might possibly be made, and would entail no little loss. Not only would the quantity, when being mown, be less, but the shrinkage would be greater. As with grain, there is a proper state of maturity in which it should be reaped, and there would be a loss in cutting earlier or later, so it is with grass. When grass has attained its full growth and not yet hardened, then it is in its prime and ready for the mowing machine. It is very important that when this state of growth has been arrived at the grass be cut and saved with as little delay as possible. This state is indicated by the wilting of the blossom, just having passed its greatest perfection, and the almost fully formed, and the ripening of the most forward grains having only just commenced. There is no other time in the whole life of the plant in which it so abundantly in saccharine juice as now. The object is to preserve those juices. They, and not the woody fibre into which the matured grass would soon be converted, are the true flesh and fat formers in feeding, and their presence is indicated by the bright color and sweet flavor of the hay.

The Canadian farmer who with less labor make hay of prime quality than the farmers of other countries. The soil and climate are well adapted to the growth of some of the most valuable grasses, though not giving so heavy a yield as countries having a more humid climate; and here the great labor often required in hay making is unknown. A few hours or days see it safe from the mowing machine in the rick or mow. But this, too,

has its evil. The grass is often too much exposed to the sun; hay is often dried in a day, thereby evaporating to a much of the saccharine juice, when it should be dried by turning and scattering, with less exposure to sun. One day's tending in our ordinary hay-making weather will dry hay sufficiently to be put into casks, where it should remain till it sweats a little instead of being carried to the barn from the swaths, as is too often done.

HOW A KICKING COW WAS MASTERED.

We do not think that the treatment practised by the New York Tribune correspondent whose letter is printed below is to be recommended in any case, but it seems to have been pretty effectual:—

I lately bought a cow, lean as a gillie on account of naturally nervous temperament and milking qualities; with both horns knocked off, the probable result of unsuccessful conflicts with superior powers, and a rolling eye that betokened the spirit within. She could hunt like a buck, and if you opened the stable door without the most elaborate precautionary measures she would kick out behind with a series of rapid strokes. She would even kick with a heavy whiplash at a man on the opposite side of the street. Her former owner told me she was "a good milker, but inclined to be a little ugly when she had a calf;" that I must tie her at first, and whatever I did I must not whip her, as it would only excite her and then I could do nothing with her. I tied her legs twice; it took thirty minutes to get the rope on and fifteen to get it off each time, and she threw herself three times during the first operation and four during the second. A neighbor told me that no cow could kick with a rope drawn tightly around her body just in front of the hips. It's a mistake; but let that pass. I prepared to try it on.

The exploits of this cow having now become noised abroad, at the third trial she had an audience that would have gladdened the heart of many a poor preacher. I think she would have sent me to the stocks at all events she did her level best. Approaching with great caution, I managed after a while to get the rope in position. She was now enabled to display her powers to much better advantage than she had done hitherto. She had previously used only one leg at a time, she now called in the reserve and used both at once with remarkable effect. She knocked my little finger out of joint with her right foot and sent me into the scullery, and the little art of persuasion made, corner of the stable with her left at the first pass; at the second she put both feet through the top of the stable and came down on a \$10 milk pail with smashing effect. Laying aside all the little arts of persuasion made, provided, and extensively advertised for such cases as utterly inadequate, I hastily loosened the rope, and retiring to the horse stable near by propped a heavy squarish board against the wall, and I regret to confess that in thirty seconds time I had reduced this implement to fair kindling wood and temperance nails.

I pondered that cow as long as she would stand on her hind legs, and I am happy to state that at the end of the conflict I sat down on a stool and milked her in peace, though to be sure with the use of one hand.

In this case as being out of all ordinary and ordinary cases, I will not allude to it except as a warning to all who have a kicking cow. So do I; but once in a while this plan will answer when all others fail. I don't think I shall ever tie a cow's leg again, or put a rope around her body. It is at the best, troublesome, and more often than otherwise results in the habit of being tied, which must be continued ever after (?). The plan I pursued seems cruel, but it has the advantage of being effectual. It need not be repeated except at very rare intervals. The cow in question has not lifted a foot to kick for more than a month; the disposition is probably altered, but with the habit (toward me at least) I have effected a radical cure. Cow intelligence is probably not of high order; but this one, I judge, has learned to reason about as follows, though probably not in the language of this man: "My superior intellects are well as force; every time I kick he strikes; I frequently miss, he always hits; he never strikes me unless I kick; I had better hold still."

I am of opinion that the most malicious cow can be taught by judicious management to reason in this way.

AMMONIA CLEANING.—Housekeepers, purchase a good supply of ammonia to use in house cleaning. The husband has everything that will lighten his labors. Now suppose his wife has her bottle of spirits of ammonia to use; she takes her basin of water and a clean cloth, just puts on a few drops of the fluid, and wipes off all the dirt; it is worth more than a half day's hard labor, and does not hurt the paint either. She could put a few drops in her dish water, and see how easily the dishes could be cleaned; a few drops on a sponge would clean all the windows in the sitting-room making them shine like crystal. It would take the suns off the cushions too, and a tablecloth in the wash-pail would do more towards mopping up the kitchen floor than ten pounds of elbow grease applied to the mop handle. A housewife has as much right to make her work easy and expeditious as her husband has. If she does not do it, the fault is her own in a great measure.—Farm and Dirigo Rural.

MILKING MACHINES AGAIN.

A great fuss has been raised lately about a newly-invented instrument for the purpose of milking cows. It consisted of small metal tubes, which were thrust into the teats, and through which India rubber tubes annexed thereto the milk flowed into a receptacle placed beneath. Now nothing is better known than that it is a matter of exceeding difficulty to keep clean India rubber tubes through which milk flows, and this objection alone is sufficient to neutralize all the good that the milking machine could accomplish. If therefore scarcely needed the emphatic farmers show the invention up in its true colors. At a meeting of the Elmira, N. Y., Farmer's Club the subject came up for discussion. Mr. Billings answered for Mr. Fitch, who had used the machine on eight cows for two days, that the shrinkage in the yield was twenty-five quarts. That was bad enough; but to make the matter worse four of the cows, although milking in good order before the trial, at the end of two days gave lumpy milk, and two others bloody milk, while the remaining two were nearly dry. Mr. Fitch desired public notice to be given of his intention to eject from his premises any man who should enter with the request that he take a patent cow milker.

President Hoffman said—it is due to all who are interested in this invention and to dairymen who may be deceived by it, that we make plain statement of facts. I have a letter now before me from the person who left the milker with me, requesting me to withhold his name in my report of the trial made of the milker, for I had written him it was a miserable cheat, as I was very sure it would prove to be when I took it, and had so informed him. I believe that he was misled, and that he will not attempt sales, so, in obedience to his request, the name is withheld. The milker will do the work for which it is designed. It will draw all the milk in about the same time that it can be done by hand. The trouble comes afterwards as you have just heard. When I took the milker it was near night, and I had sixteen cows already milked. Having promised a trial I selected six others, and gave directions that they should be milked by this device and in no other way until other instructions were given. It was used with six cows for five milkings. At the end of that time four were given lumpy milk, one bloody, while all had shrunk from fifty to eighty per cent of their yield. Now we cannot afford to let such a cheat be put upon our dairymen if we have any influence to prevent it. I pronounce it an unmitigated humbug. I was not surprised by the result, but I confess I did not expect the evil to be developed so soon. If this thing is put upon the unsuspecting farmers by smooth-tongued salesmen who expatiate they will upon the examination it affords from the hard labor of milking, and prove it by a single trial, the dairy interests in the counties near here may be damaged to the extent of a full million of dollars. We most condemn the milkers in the most positive and public manner.

HEAVY SHIPMENT OF THRESHING MACHINES.—The schooner "Keystone," Capt. E. E. Wilder from Pembroke, Me., sailed from Philadelphia, Pa., last week with a full cargo of Heebner's Level Tread Horse Powers and Little Giant Threshing Machines, bound for Sackville, N. B. The vessel is 300 tons burden, and it took ten open cars to carry the machines from the factory at Lansdale, Pa. to Philadelphia, and the long train of finely painted machines created quite a sensation along the route. The machines are consigned to J. Edward Page, Esq., of Amherst, Nova Scotia. We have known Mr. Page for some years in connection with agricultural interests and have such confidence in his judgment in regard to such things that we have no doubt of his success in this enterprise. These machines have become very popular throughout the land and are gaining favor each season. We understand that a shipment is soon to be made to this State in charge of Mr. J. L. True, the general agent for the manufacturers.

There is hardly a farmer in the country that cannot double the value of his property by judicious tree and vine planting. Too many give the matter no thought, and the few who do consider the subject are apt to give it but cursory attention. The leisure of a few years will work wonders in this direction, and we have wondered why our more thoughtful agriculturists should be so woefully blind to their best interests. The very few who have labored as we have indicated have reaped a rich reward.—Dirigo Rural.

EARLY TRAINING OF TROT-TING COLTS.

This is a subject that has been very much discussed for a number of years past, and upon which there appears to be divided opinion; although I think, the general belief is, that all two and three-year olds are more or less damaged by a preparation for races. This impression may have been made by mistakes which occurred when the system was in its infancy, and before those who undertook this preparation had much experience with colts at these ages; but that it is necessary so, I do not believe. In my judgment, then, even two year olds can be trained with just as much safety as aged horses, and be permanently benefited by it, as mature trotters. Started with, so early in life, they not only acquire the disposition to take the trotting gait and keep it, but the muscles brought into use by it are developed and strengthened by constant exercise, until they are stronger than those used at other gait; and it finally becomes easier to trot than run, which will make horses staidier and more reliable trotters at all future ages.

My belief is that this system cannot be commenced too soon in the life of a colt, if it is practised with care. The trainer should be a man of good judgment, and large experience with the management of these young things; in which case, I believe, there is less risk in bringing them up to horsehood, than by letting them run in the pasture until they are three or four years old.

In the trainer's hands their exertions are controlled and systematized within reasonable and safe limits; while, in the pasture, where they are unrestrained, and in company with others, they take the most violent exercise, and are more exposed to danger than at any other time, or under any other circumstances.

In running at the top of their speed up to a fence and stopping short they start curbs, by slips and wrenches. In the same way they are liable to produce ringbones and spavins, by jumping fences. They break limbs and put joints out of place, get kicked and injured in a thousand ways; so that it would be safe to say that twenty per cent of all the colts foaled are damaged more or less before they are broken. Hence it is not only better, but safer, under these circumstances, to train and let them run until grown.

I shall expect the Goldsmith Maid of twenty years from now to be a horse that was broken at one year old, and systematically trained from that age up.

Yours,

PHILLIPS.

PRICKLY COMFREY.—You have allowed comfrey growers to discuss the merits of this forage plant in your valuable journal, and you will, I am sure, gladly insert the present experience of perhaps one of the oldest growers of comfrey in this country. The farmers and pig keepers of this neighbourhood having found out the value of comfrey are sending to me from a distance of three miles road for the fresh comfrey tops, and willingly pay me one shilling per cwt. for this green food as it is cut from the plants, and this demand is increasing every day. My experience is that young growing pigs thrive amazingly on this food, and I feel confident that farmers will soon find out that it is to their advantage to feed their swine on these green crops, rather than to fat them on meal for the pork butcher. As this is the first year I have cut this forage largely for sale, I have noticed one fact which some of your readers may be able to explain, viz., that the sap of the "solid stem" variety, when cut, imparts to the hand a bright orange color, and the hollow stem a dingy brown colour. I also find that this solid stem variety yields a crop much earlier than the ordinary hollow stemmed variety, I have had plants this year four to five feet high. I weighed some of the tops cut from plants put in twelve months since, and found they averaged 11 lbs. weight of top at their first cutting, May 14, 1878.—London Field.

WASH FOR FENCES.—Good lime slacked with sour milk, and diluted with water till it is about the consistency of ordinary whitewash is recommended by the Landworth as an excellent coating for woodwork. Fences, rafters, partitions, etc., are effectually protected against the weather for at least ten years by this application. The casing of the milk in combination with the lime forms a permanent film, which dries so quickly in warm weather that heavy rains falling directly after it has been laid on will scarcely affect the work.