

THE FARM.

AN EXCELLENT WHITEWASH.

A piece of information that is continually in request is a recipe for whitewash that will not wash off. We do not suppose there is such a thing, but the following is considered as good an article as there is in its line. It was used by U. S. Grant to whitewash the White House at Washington. Some time ago there was published an autograph letter, written in December, 1871, by Mr. Grant, then President of the United States, to a friend in California, in which this formula was given. It has since been widely published in bulletins and the agricultural press. "The Farmer's Advocate" advises every reader to cut it out and keep in a safe, convenient place for reference. Here it is:

Half a bushel of unslacked lime. Slack with warm water; cover it during the process to keep in the steam. Strain the liquid through a fine sieve or strainer; add a peck of salt previously well dissolved in warm water, three pounds of ground rice boiled to a thin paste, and stir in boiling hot; half pound of powdered Spanish whiting, and a pound of glue which has previously been dissolved over a slow fire, and add five gallons hot water to the mixture; stir well, and let it stand for a few days, covered up from the dirt. It should be put on hot. One pint of the mixture will cover a square yard, properly applied. Small brushes are best. There is nothing that can compare with it for outside or inside work, and it retains its brilliancy for many years. Coloring matter may be put in, and made of any shade—Spanish brown, yellow ochre, or common clay.

MANURE SPREADER A GREAT LABOR SAVER.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have read a number of letters in "The Farmer's Advocate" about the manure pile and the manure spreader, and have heard many people say that the manure spreader did not pay. I think that the manure spreader is one of the most labor-saving and profitable implements around the farm, although I do not own one yet. My next neighbor has one, which I rent for \$1.00 per day. I find that, not only is the manure spreader an economy, as a man with a spreader can do as much as three men would do spreading it in the old way, but it spreads the manure evenly, and in a way that will bring larger returns, which will soon pay for the machine. I am quite sure that in a short time manure spreaders will be used as much as any other labor-saving implements about the farm.

In regard to the manure pile, I think that a great many farmers lose a great deal by not handling the manure properly. I am not in favor of spreading it direct from the stable to the field in winter, letting the water wash most of the substance out of it in the spring. My plan is to haul it out to a pile in the field you want to spread it in, and then, after the hay is off, you can spread it on with the spreader; and, besides, piling it kills a lot of weeds, which are getting to be a great nuisance. These are my views, and I would like to hear from others.

Wright Co., Que.

A SUBSCRIBER.

ECONOMY IN CAREFUL SPREADING OF MANURE

Knowledge and thorough work will bring good results in even as simple a matter as spreading manure, writes T. B. Terry, the famous Ohio farmer. "Take time to get the manure thoroughly fine and even on the ground before plowing. If you have a manure spreader, that will be a great help. If you have manure enough to spread to make one profitable, I would buy one as soon as you are able, and have a good shelter for it. But, meanwhile, you can do good work without it. Take pains in spreading from the wagon first. Then perhaps you can harrow or bush the manure, thus making it more fine and even. A piece of plank with holes in and thorn bushes wedged in may do good work. Such a manure spreader is within the reach of anyone. If there are hard chunks, go over the field with a bat and knock them all to pieces; and take a fork and spread any bunches you can find. You can, no doubt, get by so doing, perhaps twice as much out of the manure.

Many a day I worked in all these ways. Suppose you put ten tons on an acre, and spread it. If you can pulverize this manure so that you can get it so even that when you come to plow, you can see the trace of it can be seen, you have put it in the best possible condition for cropping. That is the manure is concerned.

OLD ONTARIO HOLDS HER OWN AT MIXED FARMING.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of February 7th, "Horseback Farmer" presents some queer figures, and gives the net profit from his farm of 195 acres, 64 acres cleared, for the year as \$1,251. Taking his own figures I doubt very much if his bank account would show a net gain of \$1,251, although if I had as much land as he, and money in stock and implements, and could not increase that by at least 50%, I would get off the horse and go at it myself or sell out. A year ago I gave you some figures along this line, and found my aggregate sales for the year amounted to over \$1,070 off this 67 acres. I became a little optimistic, and promised you a better showing another year, with an ordinarily favorable season. I will not value and estimate stock and machinery, and all that sort of thing, but give in detail the exact figures of my sales made off this small farm without buying either grain or feed for the last two years (with the exception of 50 bushels of corn in the ear, taken on a debt). I might also state right here, that my cows have not had bran, ensilage, or any soiling crop whatever, and as my clover all froze out last winter, our pasture was not up to the normal condition; the grubs thinned our corn and oats, and that terrible wind and rain storm in June beat our factory peas so badly (they were just setting) that they were only half a crop. These things, together with the loss of three fine colts (the one a registered Hackney, and full sister to Blue Bonnet, that was sold for \$500 cash at 8 months' old the fall before), and a registered Holstein calf, two ewes and five lambs, it will be seen we have had a little more than our share of what is called bad luck. We milked three full aged cows, one two-year-old heifer and one four years old.

Checks from cheese and butter factories.....	\$ 349 94
Cash for milk	8 72
Cash for butter, previous to 1st April.....	15 00
Estimated check not yet received for 1 cow 4 weeks; 3 cows 2 weeks	10 00

We had all we wanted to use for the family also from these five cows, average \$76.73 each.

From 6 acres sweet corn from canning factory	108 64
From 4 acres sweet peas from canning factory	79 20
For 4 Holstein heifer calves	156 00
For 1 Holstein bull calf	35 00
1-growth of 1-year-old heifer, sold for \$100.....	75 00
1-growth of 2-year-old heifer, sold for \$90.....	45 00
Service for bull	82 25
12 Leicester lambs	95 00
10 fleeces of wool	25 11
Service for ram	2 00
Young hogs for breeding and killing	164 82
Service for hog	3 75
Growth of 1-year-old colt, sold for \$102; profit	40 00
1-growth of 2-year-old colt, sold for \$65.....	15 00
Chickens	4 22
Eggs	20 20
Potatoes	5 25
Berries	4 20
Cabbage	1 60
Turnips	1 00
Radishes	40
Apples	1 75
Prize money on stock and vegetables	85 70

There can justly be added to this the two best registered heifer calves kept.....	100 00
Work done with team and otherwise	38 75
19 cords wood sold off the farm	47 50

\$1,621 00

This is the exact amount of output off this 67 acres for 1906 to March 1st, with the exception of the estimated February cheese check. As my neighbors will see, it does not include the gross price or net profits on 5 cows, 1 horse, 9 grade young cattle, 6 aged ewes, 2 aged hogs sold at sale, and half of them were fed off this place the last summer and winter.

Elgin Co., Ont.

G. H. CAUGHELL & SON.

PICTURE-STUDY IS NOT NATURE-STUDY.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

On page 578 "X. I. C." refers to a certain school principal who could demonstrate by diagram and illustration the difference in foliage, etc., of all the Canadian woods, and yet, in the forest, could not tell balsam from spruce. It certainly is remarkable that a man who could make drawings of the flat, blunt, round-based balsam leaf, and of the distinctly different four-angled, sharp-pointed, sterigma-based spruce leaf, could not tell them apart when he saw them growing on their respective trees. He could not have had images in his mind of the objects he was drawing. How had he learned to draw them?

It is also surprising that "X. I. C." or anyone else who writes on education should call the teaching of diagrams and illustrations nature-study. Picture-study is very different from, if not the opposite of, nature-study. Had the prin-

cipal referred to been teaching these trees by the nature-study method, he would have taken the learners to the living examples and caused them to observe, handle, compare and know the realities, instead of showing them pictures.

The teacher who does not know his business well enough to teach a simple, tangible object such as a spruce tree, would make a very sorry job of teaching so complex a subject as "X. I. C." proposes, namely the cost, value and quality of the things the farmer has to buy and sell.

London, Ont.

J. DEARNESS.

A SURVEY OF PRESENT-DAY AGRICULTURE

We are in receipt of the initial volume of the *Cyclopedia of American Agriculture*, a monumental work, prepared under the able editorial direction of Prof. L. H. Bailey, of Cornell University. It aptly defines itself as "a popular survey of the agricultural conditions, practices and ideals in the United States and Canada," and will be completed in four volumes, illustrated by 100 full-page engravings, and about 2,000 other pictures. Its design is to lay before the public the agriculture of to-day at its very best, rather than to work out new paths. Over 100 experts have contributed to the first volume of about 600 pages, and a host of others assisted in proof-reading and otherwise, in order to ensure accuracy and completeness. The first volume deals, 1st, with agricultural regions; 2nd, the layout and organization of farms, and 3rd, the environments that determine the life and character of plants and animals. The second volume is to be devoted to crops, the third to animals, and the fourth to the farm and the community, as expressed in history, biography, bibliography, education, statistics, economic and social questions. Our readers will learn with satisfaction that a good sprinkling of Canadian names appear among those who shared in the preparation of the volume before us, among them being the following: Prof. C. C. James, F. L. Fuller, J. C. Ready, A. G. Dickson, G. A. Gigault, C. A. Zavitz, W. J. Black, Ralph S. Eaton, W. C. Good, C. W. Peterson, J. C. Chapais, J. H. Grisdale, John A. Craig, Prof. M. Cumming, Prof. G. E. Day, Prof. H. H. Dean, Dr. Jas. Fletcher, Geo. Harcourt, Prof. H. L. Hutt, Hugh McKellar, Geo. Rice, Dr. Jas. W. Robertson, R. Robertson, C. E. Saunders, Dr. Wm. Saunders, and Richard Waugh. In the library of the agriculturist these volumes will rank with the *Cyclopedia of American Horticulture*, prepared a few years ago under Prof. Bailey's editorial direction, and which as an achievement in technical literature for reference and for practical purposes, deservedly holds high rank. In that particular sphere Prof. Bailey naturally found himself peculiarly at home, and the experience gained has aided him in the editorship of the present more general work, which, in view of the present revival and popularity of agriculture on this continent, appears at an opportune time. It is published in attractive form by the Macmillan Company, of Toronto, Canada; New York, U.S.A., and London, Eng., a fact, coupled with its distinguished editorial direction, that assures the merit of the work.

SUMMER-FALLOWING FOR QUACK GRASS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Being a subscriber to your valuable paper, I scanned every item that the subscribers had to advance concerning quack grass, and how to eradicate it. I tried different methods I saw recommended—plowing light after harvest and deep again just before it froze up, and plowing twice again in the spring, plowing deep trying to smother it, and raking and burning the roots—but it did no good, only tickled the plants and made them grow better. The sod was so matted and thick I could not get a cultivator through to raise the roots out.

I believe the only way to make a thorough job is to summer-fallow. I plowed twice in the fall, the last time just before it froze up. I had four acres in the piece I intended to fallow, but changed my mind and only fallowed one acre and a half—the very worst part of the piece through the center of the field. The balance was in roots and corn. The piece I fallowed was so thick and matted I could hardly plow it; the roots would raise the plow out of the ground. Whenever there was a hot and dry day I would plow, cultivate and harrow to bring the roots to the top, and the sun would soon finish them. I did more cultivating and harrowing than plowing, so as not to bury too many roots. The last plowing in the fall I don't think you could find a dozen green spears. The balance of the piece I put in mangels, potatoes and corn. Mangels and potatoes are better than corn to get rid of the grass, but you have to lose some plants. I used the manure fork to lift the roots out in the thick spots. In corn it is more difficult to see the grass when the corn gets high. Some will be missed close to the stalks. In cutting the corn, I saw a number close to the stalks.

Perth Co., Ont.

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