

Correspondence.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—1. Please write on one side of the paper only. 2. Give full name, Post-Office and Province, not necessarily for publication, but as guarantee of good faith and to enable us to answer by mail when, for any reason, that course seems desirable. 3. Do not expect anonymous communications to be noticed. 4. Mark letters "Printers' Manuscript," leave open and postage will be only 1c. per ½ ounce. We do not hold ourselves responsible for the views of correspondents.

SIR,—I have rented a farm for two years. The meadow land that is on it seems to be run out, and the chances are that there will be a poor crop of hay on it next year. Do you suppose that it would pay to buy artificial manure to top dress with, and what would be the best to procure, and what would it cost per acre? The soil is a clay loam, with a clay subsoil. I intend to sow 16 acres of wheat and 11 acres of barley; the soil is of the same quality as the meadow. Would it pay to buy salt to sow? I see by the Agricultural Commissioners' report, that the experience of some farmers, in regard to sowing salt, was that it had a tendency to keep the straw bright and the grain clear and plump, but they could not say that the yield was greater. I myself have not had any experience of the kind.

R. B., Bromley P. O.

[For the short period for which you have rented the farm, it certainly would not be profitable to purchase fertilizers. A top dressing of well decomposed barnyard manure would be beneficial, but you would not get any return for your outlay with such a short lease. Artificial manures are very costly and the beneficial results obtained from their application is spread over a number of years. The good results from sowing salt vary very much; in some instances it produces heavy crops, while in others there is little appreciable benefit derived. The renting of such a farm as you describe, for so short a term, is a rash undertaking. Any improvement you make will be for the owner of the farm, as it would not allow you in such a short time to recoup yourself for any outlay. If the farm was in good heart you might reasonably expect a fair return for your labor].

SIR,—Can you give me any plan for making a cheap refrigerator to keep meat in during the summer? Those that are generally presented for sale are too expensive to be within reach of every farmer, and then any one with a mechanical turn of mind can make one during the winter, when he has not much else to do, and thereby save a good deal of expense. Can you also give me a good plan for stabling under a barn that I intend to build 60x120 feet, to have stabling for about fifty head of cattle, and if I could make a place in it in which to store ensilage; the foundation is to be stone? By answering the above you will greatly oblige.

J. A. St., Riverdale Junction.

[On page 32 of the ADVOCATE for February, 1881, will be found an excellent representation of a large refrigerator. Mr. Brice, of Toronto, could doubtless give you instructions how to make one. Our space and time will be fully occupied for the next few months, and we should have to engage an architect specially to prepare the plans, which would probably not be of general importance. On page 201 of the ADVOCATE for September, 1879, is an excellent plan of barn, which any practical man could enlarge or alter to suit.]

SIR,—I have a young orchard of 6½ acres of plums, apples and grapes, about six years planted; I live at Meaford, where a great quantity of fish—salmon, trout and whitefish—are caught during the fall. Any amount of offal from these fish can be procured as a manure, and I have been taking advantage of it for my grounds, but I am afraid of going too far with it and damaging my young trees. Can you advise me what quantity I can put on without damaging results? If you cannot tell, can I use the ADVOCATE to find out from those of your readers who can?

T. P., Meaford P. O.

[We know fish manure to be very valuable, but have no doubt that excessive application of it, like any other fertilizer, would prove injurious. We have no personal experience of its use. Perhaps some of our readers in the Maritime Provinces who use fish for manure would let us have their experience.]

SIR,—1st. Is gas lime a good fertilizer? 2nd. What properties does it contain? 3rd. Will it produce better results mixed with compost some time before using, or applied directly to the seed bed? 4th. If mixed with compost containing nitrogenous matter will it fix the ammonia, or cause it to escape, or what effect will it have? 5th. Should it to produce the best results, be applied at once, or exposed some time to the atmosphere, to allow deleterious gases to escape, if any? 6th. State how it should be used to produce the best results; state the best way to use gas liquor as a fertilizer.

J. N., Charlottetown, P. E. I.

[1st. Gas lime used in moderation is an excellent fertilizer. 2nd. It contains nearly all the good elements that lime contains with the addition of sulphur and sulphuric acid. 3rd. It will be better for mixing with compost. 4th. Like other lime, if mixed with nitrogenous matter will assist in the escape of ammonia. 5th. An excellent method of applying it is to team it on the land when covered with snow and spread thinly at the rate of about two wagon-loads to the acre. If more than that quantity is used it will destroy vegetation. Spread thinly upon old worn out grass land it will be found very beneficial. We have had no experience in the use of gas liquor as a fertilizer.]

SIR,—I would like to know in the next number the best crop to use gas lime with, and its value compared with common lime? A SUBSCRIBER.

[See our reply to J. N. Gas lime can be used with benefit to any crop and compared with common lime is little inferior, but as it contains a deal of sulphuric acid it must be used sparingly, otherwise it will burn up all vegetable matter which it comes in contact with.]

SIR,—Would you be kind enough to tell me through your valuable paper what a weed hook is like. I want to attach one to a plow to turn under clover and other green crops.

H. M., Bowmanville, Ont.

[We have not a plan of a weed hook which we have seen. Many use for the purpose a chain attached to the beam, and some use a roller to break down the weeds before the plow.]

SIR,—An answer to the following query will oblige an old subscriber: I have had an argument with what I consider a crank on the subject of feeding cows in winter. He contended that a cow fed entirely on straw, and nothing else, would be as fat in the spring as a cow fed entirely on hay. We have a small bet on the subject, and the decision is to be left with you.

J. R. McL., Vankleek Hill.

[Although many cattle winter well upon good, well saved straw, and turn out in good condition in the spring, yet those fed upon good hay during the same period are sure to turn out better. Oat straw contains only 30 per cent. as much fattening matter as timothy hay.]

SIR,—I would like to know the best way to kill Canadian thistles? I would like to know the best remedy for curing ring-worm on cattle?

J. B., Wanstead.

[To prevent the growth of Canadian thistles, never suffer them to appear over ground, as it is absolutely necessary for all plants to breathe and obtain food from the air; we have frequently referred to this subject. To cure ring-worm on cattle clip the hair close on the affected part and paint with iodine, or a solution of corrosive sublimate (40 grains to 1 pint of water), or bisulphide of soda (½ oz. to 1 pint). As this disease is infectious the cattle affected should be kept separate.]

SIR,—I would like some information in regard to the red Brazilian and the improved large white French artichokes, if they are good to feed hogs, and how many bushels can be raised to the acre? Please answer in your next issue, for we can't do without the FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

J. M., Bramer, P. O.

[There is such a diversity of opinion about growing artichokes that we hesitate giving an opinion favorable or unfavorable. They will yield from 500 to 1,500 bushels an acre. Whether they are of any value for stock feeding is a disputed point. There is no difference in the value of the different varieties.]

SIR,—I think you would do well to warn the farmers of Ontario, the majority of whom are keeping too much land in crop. I remember about

forty years ago, when starting farming for myself, I used to have nearly all the cleared land under the plow, but the result was not satisfactory, when I at once decided that one-half under the plow, the other on the green side, would give better results, and, after trial of thirty years it has never disappointed me, and have always been able to show a satisfactory balance sheet. With too much land in crop it is certain soon to become covered with foul weeds and small crops; with the other system the very reverse.

T. C., Whitby, Ont.

SIR,—Would you please tell me through the ADVOCATE if there are any of the sulky binders that you could recommend to farmers.

Alex. Mc., Chippewa.

[We are unable from our own experience to recommend any of the sulky binders now in use.]

SIR,—“R. A. B.,” of Cherry Grove, is asking the directors of the Western Fair to make a change in the mode of exhibiting horses. He wants the doors left open from 11 till 3 o'clock. Now Mr. “R. A. B.” that is all very well, but when are the men that have those horses to have their dinner? Are they to leave the doors open with their animals at the mercy of everybody with sticks and walking canes to probe them as they please? I, for one, as an exhibitor, have had to prevent some unscrupulous visitors from doing such. And again, from 11 until 3 o'clock the flies are so very annoying, that if the stables are kept dark the little pests are not so bad. If Mr. “R. A. B.” was an exhibitor of horses he would find, as I do, not one man out of fifty would be like himself, that would go 20 miles with a mare in the spring, but hundreds that won't go five miles. I have been leading horses 25 years, and I don't think that the fall shows make much difference to the spring business, and perhaps if you go to bind exhibitors too much you will find them as scarce as visitors, and without exhibitors their certainly will be no visitors.

If the directors could only select men that would give honest judgments, not as they did last fair in the imported heavy draught class. I contend there are plenty of good, honest farmers in the counties of Middlesex, Huron and Perth well qualified to give honest judgment, without taking jockeys and jobbers to do that work, for those men always have their pets. I, for one, would have put in a protest last year, but I disdain to do such work, and I told some of your directors that was the reason I did not. Hoping that you will insert these few lines in your next ADVOCATE.

T. E., St. Mary's, Ont.

SIR,—I am receiving from a pork packing house some of their refuse, blood, &c., shipped in hogsheads. How ought it to be treated and used? Also have a dead horse; can the carcass be made into fertilizing material that is in some way practical for a farm? I have abundance of coarse feed, turnips, oat straw and corn fodder for more stock than I have got, but have not enough feed grain. Now, if I buy store cattle, I must pay high prices, too high, and then pay do, for meal. Then as to best to get, peas at 75c. when ground, crushed oil cake at say \$35, or cotton seed meal at \$35 per ton; which will pay best in the end? Lambs not sold; will they pay for good feeding as well as cattle, and if so what meal for them? Am now giving them good hay, turnips and oats.

H. M., Paris, Ont.

[Garbage from packing houses is one of the best fertilizers for garden or farm, mixed with compost or spread upon the soil and plowed in with a light furrow. In fact we know of no more valuable manure. A dead horse can be converted into a very valuable fertilizer by placing it in the corner of the field in which the fertilizer is to be applied, and covering it over with a few loads of barnyard manure. In a few months it will become decomposed, and the bones will become so soft as to be easily broken with a fork or spade. The whole can then be mixed with a few more loads of dung and applied to the land. About two cords of dung will be sufficient to decompose the animal, and of course it will take a little longer for the process in the winter than in the summer. Another good method, if you have hogsheads, would be to cut the animal into chunks and place in the barrels; then pour on some sulphuric acid and water, leave