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Corn Growing near Lake Huron.

SIR,—I get a great deal of useful information in your paper, have been a subscriber for the last five years, and would not like to give it up.

Crops were very poor in this neighborhood this year, with the exception of fall wheat and some fields of oats. One of my neighbors had over 35 bushels to the acre on an average. Spring wheat was a good fair crop on good cultivated and under-drained land. For the last three years I have been raising corn, or trying to, and I am going into it stronger next year, for I think it pays better than peas to feed or even to sell (for the Canadian yellow corn sells well, for making corn meal, at 70c. to 75c.) The first year I planted only half an acre on a very hard thistle patch, well manured with barnyard manure. I found that when I cultivated the land enough to keep the thistles down I had just done enough to keep the corn growing. The next year I planted 2½ acres, but, to my sorrow, the crows got it all, and made a large addition to the turnip patch for us. Last spring I planted about four acres, but before I planted it I got some coal tar and mixed it with the corn, just enough to brown it a little, and in that way fooled the crows, for they never touched it, and I had a very good crop. Some of my neighbors are trying the same trick. There was considerable corn sown on this line last year, and next summer I think the amount will be far more than doubled. One man told me he was going to plant about eight acres; he had three last year. I have a piece of sod; part of it was plowed last fall, the rest to be next spring. I intend to put corn on it, and in the fall, as soon as it is ripe, cut it and draw it out of the field to the barn and set it up to dry and the corn to harden, and plow over the ground and put in fall wheat. I think that I can get it in in September, and as some advocate sowing fall wheat late, that may stand a good chance on well cultivated ground. The sod is clover and timothy, and the greater part of it laid only one year, mowed and then pastured. I intend to plant the corn pretty early, as we are not often troubled with spring frosts here on the shores of Lake Huron, but five miles east makes a vast difference. The land is very good here on the lake shore, a loamy clay, or rather a crumbly clay, but it wants underdraining.

One question I wish to ask: Is it better to wet the cow's teats when milking or to milk them dry? Some around here say it is far the cleanest way to milk dry; others say it does the cows harm and creates warts on the teats, while others prefer wetting them with clean water instead of milk. Does it create warts to milk dry?

H. D. W., Brewster, Ont.

Notes from Michigan.

SIR,—The agricultural importance of the great State of Michigan has never shown to a better advantage than during the two years just past, viz., 1877 and 1878. True, prices for all farm products have ruled low, but the corresponding low prices for all the farmer has had to buy has made the purchasing power of the products of his labor fully equal.

This condition of things has been no serious drawback to the farmer who was out of debt. But, of course, he who was in debt for property, bought when prices were high and rates of interest also high, has found the last year one of severe struggle.

The statistics furnished by the Supervisors of the several townships, of the number of acres of wheat sown for the above-named years, and the number of bushels raised in the total, with the average per acre for each county and the State,

show conclusively that one of the greatest money-producing crops, if not the greatest, is wheat.

The *Michigan Homestead*, in a recent article on this subject, put the yield for 1878 at over 28,000,000 bushels, with an average per acre of 18 bushels for the State.

The corn crop has, for many years, been an important crop for Southern Michigan—and from repeated trials and tests it is proven to be a very cheap crop. The cost per bushel scarcely going above ten and twelve cents per bushel for ears.

The oat crop comes next in importance, and the same authority puts the product of the State 12,000,000 bushels for 1878, which is no doubt much below that of former years, but this must be attributed to the smaller average sown, for the yield per acre has been fully up to the standard of former years.

The unusual good crop of wheat in 1877, with the fair price realized, and the prospects of the continuance of the European War, was probably the cause of the large amount of wheat being sown again in the fall of 1877, to the detriment of the oat crop the following spring.

Field peas are growing in favor with the farmers, and but for the trouble of getting the seed cheaply, would soon become of vastly greater importance. Peas raised here cannot be kept through the winter on account of bugs, and, as a consequence, we must depend upon Northern Michigan and Canada for our seed every spring. And here comes in another serious trouble, viz., that the Canada peas often bring with them seeds of the Canada thistle, and, between the bug and the thistle, many of our farmers are deterred from raising what would otherwise be a very profitable crop.

The potato crop is one that Michigan may well feel proud of. No State excels Michigan in quantity or quality of her potatoes, though we cannot boast of the crop of 1878 particularly.

The apple crop of 1878 has been immense, and of a superior quality. Millions of bushels have wasted for want of a price in the market that would pay for the picking. The crop was so good over the entire country that shippers dare not invest to a large extent.

The patent drying houses of the various kinds have been as busy as could be, and have used up all they could, but that, large as it was, is but a drop in the bucket, compared with the amount grown. One factory in this county alone has used up not less than 35,000 bushels, which was bought at prices ranging from six to twenty cents per bushel, and the one township, where it is located, could have supplied many times as many more had its capacity been large enough to have taken care of them.

There was sown again a full average acreage of wheat last fall, and the weather during the fall was all that could be desired for its starting, and the abundant grain grown, that fell early in December and still covers the ground, promises another abundant yield in 1879.

S. B. M., Adrian, Mich.

SIR,—I have been a reader of your valuable paper for several years, and with pleasure renew my subscription. I will try and increase its circulation, but people here don't think as I do, that "the FARMERS' ADVOCATE" is worth its weight in gold, or they would more readily subscribe. During my absence in Britain I did not see an agricultural paper with so much real practical information in so little space. We have much to learn in the way of farming and stock raising.

J. W., Hinch, Ont.

SIR,—Your article in the January number on "Yellows in the Peach," calls to mind an experiment which I tried. About the middle of summer, especially should there be fruit on, this disease can easily be detected by its premature ripening and general yellow and changed appearance; my practice has been for years, when I discovered these symptoms, to make at once a decided mark on the south side of the stem, that was understood to mean total destruction as soon as the fruit was off. The two trees in question were left standing to experiment on. On the 1st Oct., 1877, a circle four feet around these trees was covered one inch thick with fresh gas lime; evergreens that were planted near, whose roots were not covered with lime, were mostly killed by the poisonous odor. One of the trees died, the other came out green last spring, blossomed, and, very late, ripened its fruit, the tree remaining green longer than any

other. I give this to the public for what it may be worth. I have tried similar experiments on others, with what success I shall know next season.

I am in favor of a commission to extend over the United States, who would be competent to examine nurseries especially, and report each one, that the public may be protected from spreading this terrible malady. A few years ago I had no disease in my nursery, but purchasing peach trees for stock from New Jersey, I soon became filled with it. I then abandoned budding, and now purchase my young trees from the State of Delaware, where, as I understand, the yellows do not prevail. If not for this scourge on Long Island, we might export this delicious fruit, instead of purchasing nearly all we use. This tree is one that thrives best near the salt water.

P. H. F., Babylon, L. I., N. Y.

Much in Little.

Hard times.

Money scarce.

Potatoes rotten.

Peas small.

Grain small and no price.

Still we must have the ADVOCATE! Send it along!

Wishing you and staff a "Happy New Year."
R. M., Sunbury, Ont.

SIR,—As an old subscriber to your excellent paper, the FARMERS' ADVOCATE, I am venturing to write to you personally to solicit you affording me some information relative to shipping cattle to England, that I believe you can supply me with. The points I desire enlightening on are chiefly these, viz.:

1st. Is there, to your knowledge, any Canadian Farmers' Agency in Liverpool to whom one could consign cattle, from this Province, to sell on commission, and feel sure of an honest, intelligent, economical, and altogether satisfactory handling and returns. If so, will you be so kind as to give me their address.

I have heard that more than one set of farmers in different parts of Ontario have joined together and sent one of their number to England, establishing him there as their regular agent to sell for them; if this is so, I should like to join one of these companies, and ship conjointly, receiving my proportionate due returns. Any information you can give me would be highly valued.

W. O., Birchton, Q.

[We know of no such person as you enquire for. We know several that are working on their own account, but could not name one to fill your bill.]

Mr. W. Dyke, Canadian Emigration Agent, Liverpool, we have seen, and consider information from him would be reliable. He is anxious to do all he can for Canadians, and you might write to him. We know of no better person to supply you with the information.

We believe there is a good opening for a good man to establish a general Canadian agency in Liverpool, and hope to hear of the vacancy being filled.]

Retrograde Farmers.

SIR,—I have been trying to induce some of my farmer neighbors to take the ADVOCATE, but without success, although it would be to their benefit; and yet they pretend to be good farmers, on farms valued at \$4,000 to \$7,000 per 100 acres. They have not a single head of cattle that any farmer near Guelph would winter. We bought a thoroughbred bull last February, and very few of them patronize us, although we charge only \$1.50 per cow. They will find their mistake when they have been two or three years in stock-raising. We induced our nearest neighbor, who has a farm of 150 acres, to go the Xmas Fat Cattle Show at Guelph, and he was completely bewildered. He says his neighbors won't believe him if he tells them what he saw there. He brought home with him a good grade cow and heifer in calf, which is a move in the right direction—and all through us and the ADVOCATE. I tell the others they will never know how to farm until they read more agricultural papers. They know nothing about growing roots or how to use them.

T. C.

To Inquirer, Elora.—Thorley's cattle food maintains the highest reputation in England. Mr. Thomas Shaw, of Hamilton, has advertised Thorley's improved cattle food for months in various journals. Write him for full particulars.