

## AS SHIRES AND CLYDES DIFFER.

W. H. P., Frontenac Co., Ont.:—"I am interested in draft horses, and would ask you to tell me, through the columns of your valuable paper, the difference between Shire and Clyde horses. What is the breeding of the English Shire, and how does it differ from that of the Clyde? What, if any, advantage has the Shire horse over the Clyde for farm or draft work? Has the Clyde any advantage over the Shire, or wherein lies the difference?"

[We invite W. H. P.'s attention to Mr. Innes' letter in our issue of April 16th, page 220. The Shire horse derives his name from the Shire counties in the heart of England. For a long time prior to the eighteenth century he was known as the large "Black old English Horse." The Shire horses of today trace to the "Old English War-horse," which ancient writers tell us excited the admiration of the Romans when they first invaded England some two thousand years ago. They were powerful horses, of great weight and activity. It is claimed by authorities that during later centuries Shire men aimed largely at the production of a horse of great bulk, capable of shifting great loads in crowded streets, and starting the same on the level from a dead halt. With this end in view the body was more looked after than the limbs, which caused the latter to lose something in quality and flexibility. For the last few decades, however, more attention has been paid to the pasterns and action of the animals, until we find the better specimens of the breed to-day possessing the desirable quality of bone and action, while the body has lost nothing of its substance and symmetry.]

Clydesdales are claimed to have been descended from a race of tough, shaggy, pony-built horses, appreciated by the inhabitants of Scotland because of their ability to move heavy loads, to carry heavy weights in the saddle at a fair pace, to pull the plow on hillsides or level ground, and to be in readiness for service in the fields of war. Such services demanded horses of stamina and vigor. As time went on these horses of 1,000 or 1,200 pounds were gradually increased in weight in order to meet the changing conditions in agriculture and draft work. More liberal food, with better shelter and slower work, did their share, with selection, in increasing the size. This is how the pure Clydesdale is still a big pony, with shaggy hair, square quarters, sound, hard legs, and tough, well-shaped hoofs. The typical Shire has somewhat greater weight than the Clydesdale, but lacks to some extent in quality of bone and activity.]

## COWS CHEWING BONES—BLUESTONE FOR SMUT.

SUBSCRIBER, Wentworth Co.:—"1. Two of my cows have a mania for chewing bones. What is the cause and remedy? 2. How long should oats be soaked in the bluestone solution in order to kill the smut spores?"

[When cows chew bones, it indicates an abnormal appetite due to a demand in the system for earthy matter that is deficient in the food given. We have found a speedy and sure remedy in mixing wood ashes with their salt in the proportion of one of ashes to two of salt.

2. Mr. S. A. Bedford, Experimental Farm, Brandon, after considerable experimenting, recommends steeping smutty oats for 24 hours in sulphide of potassium, 1½ lbs. to 25 gallons of water. When bluestone liquid, 1 pound to 8 gallons of water, is used, the oats should steep for five minutes. A longer treatment tends to delay germination of the grain.]

## SHEEP-DIPPING TANK.

J. B., Norfolk Co., Ont.:—"Will you or some reader give instructions how to build a tank for dipping sheep, giving size and shape, and any other information that would enable a carpenter to build one? Also the amount of dip repaid for forty sheep?"

[Tank should be of matched plank 1½ or 2 inches thick, and made same as a water trough for stock, about 5 feet long, 2 feet 6 inches high, one foot wide at bottom, flanging out to 2 feet or 2 feet 6 inches at top, the ends also flanging in same proportion. These dimensions are roughly approximate and are given from memory. Perhaps some reader will kindly give more definite instructions.

Directions are given on cans or packages of sheep dip on the market stating quantity required for a given number of sheep. We judge one half gallon of the advertised dips would be quite sufficient for forty sheep if mixed according to directions. It is well, however, to order at least one gallon, as it is better to have too much than too little, and it is useful as a disinfectant and for other purposes.]

## BULL SLOW IN SERVING.

SUBSCRIBER, Middlesex Co., Ont.:—"I have a Shorthorn bull about 14 months old, in good health and condition, but is very slow in serving cows. Is there any reason why he should be so, and what would you do for him?"

[Feed him liberally with ground oats and bran, and roots and clover hay, and give him plenty of exercise. Turn him out in the barnyard with quiet cows or young cattle, half an hour at first on fine days, and an hour or two later on. Turn him loose with the cow in season, and let him romp with her. A run on pasture with other cows for a few weeks may do him good if he is taken up once or twice a day and fed.]

## TRAINING A PUP—CARE OF DUCKS.

FATHER'S BOY, York Co., Ont.:—"My father takes the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, and it is a very good paper. I have a few questions to ask: 1st, I have a pup. Would you please give me your best instructions to make a first-class dog of him?"

"2nd, How would you prefer feeding and taking care of ducks? Should they have a pond or not?"

[We presume that the puppy is of the collie breed, as in our opinion that is the only sort of dog that is worth keeping on a farm, and unless these are naturally bright and well trained they are liable to give more trouble than their services are worth. Puppies, like children, must be dealt with so as to create mutual affection. Talk with him, praise him, and teach him a few little tricks, being careful to be systematic, and do not misplace the pup's confidence. Give him a box, a bed or a blanket always in the same place. He should receive his two meals a day regularly, so as to form in him habits of regularity. In teaching tricks use the same words each time for the same thing, and in this way the puppy will soon learn what you mean. If the puppy is to be a stock driver begin with him when about five months old. At first just keep him at your side while you drive the stock. Take plenty of time and do the work carefully. Always go quietly around to the rear of the stock, then wave your arm and make some noise about the work. The dog will then understand what you are about. A dog should not be expected to do his work alone until he is a year old, and not then unless he has had considerable schooling in the field. A collie generally takes naturally to driving, but sometimes they incline to go to the head. It is, therefore, well from the very first to lead him with a cord or light rope, by which he can be taught to come quickly when called back. He should know to stop driving at once with the words "that will do" or "here" from his master. Then if he goes to the head he may be called or pulled back. These bad habits will not prevail if the start is made right. Above all things, remember a collie must know but one master. If every man, boy or child about a place undertakes the training, you will have a dog which will prove only a disappointment and a vexation. Never whip a collie; he will not forget it if you do, and will constantly be in fear of you. A good scolding is enough. It is always well to reward an act well done with a morsel of something that he likes.

2. During and before the laying season give a warm breakfast. The mash need not be mixed as stiff as for chickens. Once a week place powdered charcoal in their mash, a gill to a quart, and have it around their house in sizable pieces all the time. Treat them about as you do your hens, only they do not need a dust bath and as warm a house. They need more to eat than hens, head for head, but it may be made more of bulk with advantage to the ducks and to the cost of feed. During the heavy laying time they need feed in the proportion of three hens' rations to two ducks. To do their best at laying they should have fresh lean meat twice per week, all they want after you have them broken into it. Procure one drake for each five ducks, and get nice ones. Don't keep their craws full all the time if you are to get many eggs. For ducks to lay well, and above all, their eggs to hatch well and produce good strong ducklings, they must exercise a great deal, and for this there is nothing better than a pond to swim in. It is not necessary to have a duck pond in order to be a successful duck-raiser, but it helps lots. The eggs seem to be all fertile, and such great, strong ducklings kick out of them. After the ducklings are thirty-six hours old give them a drink of water and feed, composed of equal parts of bread soaked in sweet milk, gluten meal and corn meal, to which has been added two per cent. of beef scraps and a little grit. Give this food during the first five days. After this give equal parts of bran, corn meal and gluten meal, with five per cent. beef scraps and a little grit. Keep grit and clean drinking water before them all the time. Feed five times at first, reduce to three times at four weeks old. As they grow older replace part of the bran with middlings, and increase the beef scraps. When five or six weeks old they should have access to a large run, and a stream of water if convenient. At nine weeks old, fed in this way, they should commence to be ready for market, dressing four and a half to five pounds each.]

## SUGAR BEETS OR MANGELS.

J. M., Grenville Co., Ont.:—"I have half acre which was once an old ashery, which grows corn, but will not grow potatoes. Will it grow sugar beets or mangels for cattle?"

[Provided the soil is free and loamy, the superabundance of potash that will be present on the site of the old ashery should not prevent a good yield of mangels or sugar beets, if a good dressing of yard manure is given. The ground should be worked up in good shape, and the seed planted as early as possible after May 1st.]

## A SUBSTITUTE FOR GLASS IN HOTBED.

"I notice an enquiry in your recent issue by J. D., New Westminster, B. C., as to whether you could recommend a substitute for glass in making a hotbed. I have covered my frames with ordinary factory cotton, with a coating of two of boiled oil, for some years, and I may say that the scheme works perfectly satisfactorily and has saved me a great deal of expense in replacing broken panes, which, with the high winds in the Calgary district, was a matter of frequent occurrence."

CHAS. W. PETERSON.

## TO PREVENT CROWS PULLING UP CORN.

W. J. B., Perth Co., Ont.:—"Could you give me any satisfactory instructions through your valuable ADVOCATE in regard to a method of preparing corn for sowing, so that crows and blackbirds may not dig it out and eat it? We had about three acres of new land sown with corn last spring, and when it was out nicely, so that one could see the drills, there were not so many crows, but flocks of blackbirds on it until scarcely a stalk of corn remained."

[Among the many preventives for crows pulling corn, perhaps deep planting is, as a general rule, the most effective. Last year, owing to the fact that the young birds were somewhat later than usual in hatching, there was no trouble experienced in this locality from the crows. Poison is no doubt a very effective means, but in addition to being contrary to law, it is a direct injury to the farmer, as the bird is certainly of great advantage to him in destroying pests which prey on his crops. There is a treatment for the seed which we have used successfully which makes the corn distasteful to the birds. This is by stirring a stick which has been dipped in coal tar in the corn until it has a very light coating, which makes it a dull brown color. Care must be taken not to use too much; if a proper quantity is used it does not hinder sowing. Land plaster will make it dry if by chance it should be sticky. The birds have a distinct dislike to the corn so treated. Binder twine stretched on small stakes in the part of field infested has given good results in many cases.]

JOS. MOUNTAIN.

Perth Co., Ont.]

## COST OF CEMENT WALL—RATION FOR BULL.

T. C., Grenville, Ont.:—"Please tell me through your valuable paper what will be the cost of putting a cement wall under a barn, 45x75x9 feet high, 15 inches thick, labor and all, with 5 doors 6x8 feet on an average, and 8 windows 3x6 feet. Would it be better than stone or brick?"

"2. What is a good ration for a bull with plenty of work, to make him sure?"

[1. The concrete walls (15 in. thick) for barn 45x75x9 feet would require about 90 barrels cement and 100 yards gravel. If field stone can be had, about one-third could be used. We do not know the rate of wages paid in section mentioned. The above work would require about 50 days' labor. Would say that the walls for any barn need not be more than 12 in. thick. We know of many of above size that are only 10 in. thick. Concrete is better and cheaper than brick or stone. ISAAC USHER & SON.

2. See reply to Subscriber, Lanark Co., top of page 236, April 16th FARMER'S ADVOCATE.]

## INSECTS ON HOP VINES—MANITOBA WASHER.

HARVIE DOAK:—"Last season our hop vines were infested with numbers of little grubs, which ate the leaves and rendered them useless. Please prescribe through the ADVOCATE what will prevent these pests, and much oblige."

"2. Where is the Manitoba Washer manufactured?"

[1. Since the infesting grubs take their food by eating the leaves, an application of poison to their diet at once suggests itself. At the first appearance of the intruders the vines should be carefully sprayed with Paris green, 1 ounce in 10 gallons of water. Repeat as often as appears necessary at intervals of a week or ten days.

2. The manufacturers of the Manitoba Washer, or dealers in that machine, could increase their business by advertising in our columns, which are closely read because they are reliable.]

## PLAN OF CORN MARKER WANTED.

A. M. F., Elgin Co., Ont.:—"I would like if you could give a good cut of a corn marker. I have seen a good many, but none amount to much. I have been watching the ADVOCATE for one, but haven't seen it."

[We published cuts and descriptions of various styles of corn markers some months ago, the best of which was repeated in May 1st issue, 1899. Since then we have seen no improvements on those already given. We therefore ask readers who have good corn markers to send us drawings and descriptions of them for publication. The simplest and best marker we have seen consisted of six plank runners 18 inches long and 6 inches deep. These were fastened 3 feet apart with a 10-inch plank nailed along the top edges. In the centre and between the end pairs of runners the plank was sawed, and strap hinges were fastened so as to allow the marker to adapt itself to uneven surfaces. The tongue or shafts can be attached by looped straps screwed to the top plank.]

## SUGAR-CURING HAMS AND BACON.

GRAIN FARMER, Waterloo Co., Ont.:—"Can you give me a recipe, either by mail or through the columns of your valuable journal, for preparing sugar-cured hams and bacon?"

[To each 100 pounds of ham or shoulder use seven and one-half pounds of fine salt, one and one-half pounds of granulated sugar, and four ounces of saltpetre. Weigh the meat and the ingredients in the above proportions, rub the meat thoroughly with this mixture, and pack closely in a tierce or cask. Fill the tierce with water and roll every seven days until cured, which, in a temperature of 40 or 50 degrees, would require about fifty days for a medium ham. Large hams take about ten days more for curing. When wanted for smoking, wash the hams in water, or soak for twelve hours. Hang in the smoke-house, and smoke slowly 48 hours.]