

SOW THISTLE.

HUGH BLAIR, Russell Co., Ont.:—"Kindly publish in your valuable paper if 'sow thistle' will grow from the root, and the best way of getting rid of it?"

[Sow thistle (*Sonchus arvensis*) is a creeping perennial, growing from the root year after year, while it extends in all directions in the soil if not carefully attended to. The FARMER'S ADVOCATE of July 1st, page 270, contained an article upon its eradication which covers the ground fairly well. It has also been dealt with in previous numbers. The thing to do is to give frequent shallow cultivation from the time harvest is off until winter; then summer-fallow or grow a hoed crop the following season, and seed down after the first grain crop. If the field can be hoed two years in succession, all the better. It will pay to interrupt the rotation a little and be very thorough in wiping out such a pest.]

A MANURE FORK WANTED.

JOHN O'RIELLY, Portage la Prairie:—"Would you be good enough to inform me where I can get a manure horse fork for loading or turning manure? By giving me the information you will greatly oblige."

[An excellent implement for turning manure is made like an ordinary earth scraper having six or seven long strong teeth instead of a flat steel scoop. The one we will attempt to describe has been in use for several years on the farm of the Hon. John Dryden, Ontario Minister of Agriculture. The fork has six or seven steel teeth or prongs about four feet long and each about 1 1/2 inches in diameter. These are almost straight, curving up slightly towards the points. These pass through, at the back ends, a five-inch hardwood head, and are held firmly by means of nuts. The teeth turn down at right angles in front of the head until they are even with the ground, then they turn out in front. The fork is about four feet wide and has two strong handles about five feet long. The horse is attached by means of a short logging chain to the ends of the head, which project about nine or ten inches farther out than the outside teeth. To use this tool, a powerful, steady horse, and a strong, patient man are necessary. It is handled in the manure like an earth scraper is handled in soil. We do not know of any horse power fork for loading manure.]

HOW TO SEED SANDY SOIL.

F. S., Middlesex Co., Ont.:—"I have a piece of very sandy soil which I have made several fruitless attempts at seeding down for a lawn. I have sown oats on part and buckwheat on part, with the hope of getting a green crop to plow down, but even these have failed to give more than a very slim covering. Would some reader of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, who can, furnish its readers with the description of a method of adding vegetable matter so that a catch of grass may be obtained?"

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

Toronto Horse Market.

The shipment of horses to all ports from Montreal reached a large number of 1,018, the largest quantity ever shipped in one week from this country, which beats the record hitherto. Mr. W. Cudmore, of Kippen, passed through the Toronto yards with a load of horses for the S. S. Numidian. Mr. Flanagan lost two horses out of his shipment to London per S. S. Ormiston. The sales during the past two weeks at Grand's Repository, Toronto, have been well attended. Messrs. MacAdam, of Glasgow, purchased two carloads for that city. Mr. Jackson, of Liverpool, also purchased a carload (mixed class).

Dr. C. S. Starr, of this city (Toronto), purchased a nice pair of horses for carriage purposes, paying \$100 for them. A handsome chestnut gelding, by Disturbance, fetched \$150; a bay pacer sold for \$170; good chunks are making \$75 to \$90; heavy draughts all the way from \$100 to \$150. Good drivers are in demand, but are hard to get. Three pairs of matched carriage wanted at from \$300 to \$400.

The sales at Grand's Repository this last week have been very good and attracted large numbers of buyers. Two pairs of matched cobs, full of quality, and showing fine action, were purchased for export. The principal buyers were: Jas. Cockburn, Barrie; Isaac Watson, Niagara Falls; Mr. F. W. Godson, Liverpool, England; F. Parker, Port Credit; Geo. Decker, Montreal. Mr. Edmunds' consignment of twenty head were all sold. A pair of bay cobs, five and six years old, sold for \$200. A fast driver, that could show a mile better than 2.40, sold for \$175 to Mr. W. Davies. Messrs. John Marr and MacAdam have just arrived from Glasgow, and will commence to purchase about fifty head for their next shipment. Draft horses, 1,300 to 1,500 lbs., \$75 to \$100. Ordinary drivers, in good condition, 15 to 15.2, \$50. Good drivers, with speed and style, 15 to 15.3, \$75 to \$150.

The U. S. Vice-Consul at Belfast, Ireland, reports large and successful sales there of horses from Canada and the U. S., the majority from the former. The buyers are both town and country folk. Referring to a shipment from Chicago, he reports the entire cost for transportation, feeding and care per animal from Chicago to Belfast as \$37.

Toronto Markets.

Stagnation is still the feature of the cattle trade, and, with the exception of the hog trade, the tone is dull. The market was pretty well cleared up, owing to light supplies. Receipts have fallen off somewhat. For week ending July 18th: Cattle, 1,546; sheep and lambs, 1,977; hogs, 5,270.

Export Cattle.—All the principal operators were on the market and purchased, but the prices did not improve. Cables from the Old Country are a trifle better, and lighter receipts caused a better feeling; yet the market cannot be termed good or encouraging. Prices were low; ruled from 31c. to 31c. per lb. for the general run. Owing to the lighter run, about all the cattle on offer were sold. Towards the close a shade higher was paid, \$3.50 being the top price. One carload of cattle, 1,200 lbs. average, sold at 31c. The shippers at this market are very greatly pleased at the action of the C. P. R., who have fitted up their cattle trains with the vacuum airbrake on all Montreal trains. It is found that the cattle travel better, as there is no jolting at the stops; and the cattle are not thrown. They have accelerated their speed, and some trains last week

did the journey in seventeen hours. Private cable advices are discouraging at present. There is more space offered on the steamships, which is very unusual.

Butchers' Cattle.—In butchers' cattle there was no change; 21c. per lb. and 3c. purchased the picked lots. Really good cattle are scarce, such as are wanted to kill for local and high-class trade. Quite a few deals were made at 21c. per lb. Small cattle of good quality will sell. Inferior sell at 2c. and 21c. per lb. One bunch, 1,063 lbs. average, sold for \$28 per head; one carload, 1,000 lbs. average, \$22 per head. Twenty-one cattle, 990 lbs. average, 21c. per lb.

Bulls.—There is some demand for good fat bulls for export, at 21c. to 31c. per lb. But for the general run of bulls, prices rule at about 21c. per lb., with hardly any sales. Some good bulls are wanted.

Sheep.—Sheep for shipping and butchers' use sold to-day at from 21c. to 31c. per lb. Mr. J. Dann bought a carload in the vicinity of this price. There were 1,200 sheep and lambs on the market. Export ewes and wethers are firmer, at 31c. per lb. Rams at 21c. per lb. Butchers' sheep are dull, at from 21c. to 21c. per lb.

Lambs.—Spring lambs are rather weak, at from \$2.25 to \$3 per head. A nice lot of 12 grain-fed lambs sold for \$35, the top price for the day. Some lambs that averaged in weight 92 lbs. sold for \$3.50 per head.

Calves.—Steady, but prices low. Only choice veals bring more than \$1 per head, ruling prices being from \$2 to \$4 per head. There were about 80 head on sale. Choice veals sell more readily than ordinary calves.

Milk Cows.—Offerings were not heavy, but they were quite sufficient for the demand. The range was from \$15 to \$30 per head. A very good cow was sold for \$22. About 12 on sale and all sold at close of day.

Hogs.—In spite of the fact that offerings were not heavy, prices sagged a quarter. Choice sold for 11c. per lb. weighed off cars; thick fat, 31c. per lb.; stores sold for 31c. per lb. The indications are still for lower prices. Thick fat hogs are going at 31c. per lb.; stores not wanted at present, and stags sell at from 11c. to 11c. per lb.

Butter.—The demand holds slow, and only the choice lines show any movement. Any stuff the least off in flavor has to be sold at reduced prices. Choice dairy, 11c. to 12c.; fresh-made creamery, 11c. to 15c. per lb.

Eggs.—Unchanged and fairly steady, at 9c. per doz. for large orders.

Chickens.—No change; dealers are selling new at 7c. per lb. and old at 8c.

Hay.—The receipts are small; market steady, fifteen loads selling at \$12.50 to \$14.50 for old and \$9 to \$10 per ton for new. Many farmers are in buying feed, as a great shortage is experienced in many sections, which makes the market steady.

Straw.—Only a very few loads on the market, at \$10. A load of loose straw changed hands at \$6.

Grain.—The receipts of grain on the street market show some improvement. Wheat—Two loads of white selling at 65c.; goose, 51c. Oats—600 bushels selling at 21c. to 23c.

Fruit.—The fruit market is busy at present. New varieties of apples are coming in quite freely. They sell at from 25c. a basket upwards, and from \$1 to \$1.50 per barrel.

Dressed Hogs.—A few loads of dressed hogs were in to-day, and changed hands at \$5.50.

Hides.—The demand for hides is slow and the market is unchanged, but some export orders are on hand.

Buffalo Markets.

Hogs.—Choice to prime heavy shipping grades, \$3.25 to \$3.30; mixed loads, mediums and Yorkers, 180 to 210 lbs. average, \$3.50 to \$3.60; pigs, good to choice, 100 to 120 lbs. average, \$3.90 to \$4.

Cattle.—Receipts last Monday about 160 cars. Heavy cattle sold slow to a shade lower; all other kinds of stock sold to a shade higher. Good light butcher stuff of all kinds sold at full strong prices, and in some instances a shade higher. This market was by far the best. Good cows and heifers are in demand. Prime to fancy steers, \$4.10 to \$4.50; good to choice, \$4.25 to \$4.35; good, ripe, 1,100 to 1,250 lb. steers, \$4.20 to \$4.35; good, ripe, 950 to 1,050 lb. steers, \$4.15 to \$4.25. Prime to fancy heifers, \$3.90 to \$4.10; good to choice, \$3.50 to \$3.75. Prime to fat cows, \$3.10 to \$3.75; fair to good, \$2.75 to \$3.25. Bulls, prime to fancy, \$3.10 to \$3.55; good, \$2.55 to \$3. Milksters and springers, fancy, \$4.50 to \$5; choice, \$3.10 to \$3.6; good, \$2.80 to \$3.1. Veal calves, extra fancy, \$4.75 to \$5; good to choice, \$4.50 to \$4.75.

Sheep and Lambs.—Receipts on Monday were heavy—about 80 cars—and the market consequently in bad shape. Lambs which sold last week at 65c. a pound have declined a dollar a hundred and will not bring over 5c. to-day. Choice to prime spring lambs, fat and good quality, 50 to 65 lbs., \$1.50 to \$5; good to choice, \$1.50 to \$1.75; culls, common and fair grades, \$3.25 to \$3.75. Choice heavy dry-fed sheep, for export, 110 lbs. and up, wethers, \$3.75 to \$4; choice heavy dry-fed sheep, for export, 110 lbs. and up, ewes, \$3.50 to \$3.75; good to choice butcher weights, dry-fed, 80 to 100 lbs., \$3.35 to \$3.65. East Buffalo, July 22nd. ERICK BROS.

Montreal Markets.

The high prices quoted in our last report for export cattle (41c. per lb.) have not been maintained, the highest that has been paid since being \$3.75 per cwt., and this being an outside figure. The reason for this is not far to seek in the extreme depression in foreign markets. What is perhaps a rather peculiar circumstance is the way the local wants have been maintained; prices for butchers' cattle ruling very high in proportion to the condition of the balance of the markets. This is accounted for particularly by a demand from butchers for a better grade of meat, and a lighter supply of really good butchers' cattle. The best butcher stock made from 31c. and even 31c. per lb.; medium to good, 21c. to 31c.; inferior in proportion; export cattle, \$3.40 to \$3.75 per cwt.

Sheep and Lambs.—Good fat sheep, suitable for shipping, meet an active demand, but at not very big prices; as yet, however, there are not very many suitable being offered, but the receipts are gradually increasing. Lambs also meet with a fair enquiry and are rather short of the demand. Butchers' sheep, 21c. to 21c.; shippers, 3c. to 31c. per lb.; lambs, \$1.50 to \$3.25 each, as to size.

Calves.—Light supplies, with fair demand, at from \$2 to \$6 each.

Live Hogs.—Hogs have been hammered down until 31c. per lb. is about the best that can be made for the best hogs brought in the yards, and we heard of one car being contracted for delivery next week at 12c. off cars here. The result of the poor prices paid to drovers has been quite a falling off in receipts, but from all accounts brought in by drovers, there are plenty of them in the country to come forward.

Hides and Skins.—Market quiet, with steady jobbing trade; prices unchanged.

The British Markets.—It is a question if these last few markets in Great Britain have not established an unbreakable record. It is at any rate hoped so, for they have been the worst in the history of the Canadian cattle trade. The fact of our best steers and maiden heifers only making from 8c. to 81c. per lb. of dressed meat is ridiculous, to say the least; but that is all they have brought. One bunch figured out by the writer, which cost \$55 each, sold for \$8 in Liverpool, and they were good cattle. However, the last cables received have been of a more encouraging nature, the market being up a trifle to 9c. and 91c. per lb.; not a very big gain, but a gain.

The space market continues strong, from 15 shillings to 17 shillings.

The total shipments to date: Cattle, 1,300; sheep, 11,943; horses, 5,960.

Chatty Stock Letter from Chicago.

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Top prices for different grades of live stock, with comparisons:—

CATTLE.	Present Prices.	Two weeks ago.	1895.	1894.
1500 lbs. up.....	\$4.40	\$4.50	\$5.90	\$4.90
1350 @ 1500.....	4.45	4.60	5.75	4.90
1200 @ 1350.....	4.55	4.50	5.70	4.90
1050 @ 1200.....	4.35	4.50	5.50	4.55
900 @ 1050.....	4.30	4.35	4.80	4.30
Stillers.....	4.20	4.30	5.70	4.50
Stks. and E.....	3.80	3.75	3.90	3.25
Fat cows and heifers:	4.00	4.35	4.75	3.60
Canners.....	2.10	2.25	2.50	2.00
Bulls.....	3.50	3.60	3.60	3.50
Calves.....	5.80	5.30	5.50	4.30
Texas steers.....	3.40	3.85	4.00	4.15
Texas C. & B.....	2.50	2.55	3.20	2.25
Western.....	3.70	3.85	4.70	3.95
Western C. & B.....	3.45	3.35	4.15	3.00
HOGS.				
Mixed.....	3.35	3.55	5.55	5.15
Heavy.....	3.45	3.40	5.45	5.20
Light.....	3.70	3.70	5.70	5.25
Pigs.....	3.70	3.65	5.20	4.90
SHEEP.				
Natives.....	3.60	4.25	4.35	3.65
Western.....	3.35	4.00	3.75	3.40
Texas.....	3.00	3.70	3.60	2.35
Lambs.....	6.40	6.50	5.50	4.00

All kinds of hog products have been close to or below the lowest notch on record, and grain is very low, with fine crop prospects.

The same old cry about no demand for heavy cattle is getting louder and louder. On a recent market day, when the pens contained a goodly share of big show cattle, buyers could hardly be induced to bid on weights above 1,400 pounds. There has lately sprung up a demand here from Guatemala for a few choice carriage teams and good drivers. There is quite a trade in the United States with Mexico. We are sending them some good horses in return for their very poor cattle.

Our people are in the midst of one of the most heated political campaigns since the one of 1890. The issue is on the question of the money standard, and the issue is already having a far-reaching effect upon the business of the country. Aside from the fact that many people expect to talk politics instead of attend to ordinary business in Presidential years, the agitation of the free-silver idea is having the effect of curtailing the amount of money in general circulation. Gold and the greenback treasury notes secured by the yellow metal are practically in hiding, and business men are disposed to narrow their business dealings, that they may be financially prepared for any emergency that may arise. This state of affairs has a very direct bearing upon the live stock industry in this way: Thousands of men who annually feed cattle do so on borrowed capital. This year they are unable to borrow, and as a consequence there is an unusually light demand for feeding cattle. This, in turn, throws a big class of cattle into competition with the "canner" grades, and prices for such promise to rule extremely low. The Western ranchmen are being warned not to send in too many thin cattle for that reason. On the other hand, shrewd dealers who have the nerve to go contrary to the crowd and have money to invest feel that they will have an unusually good chance to win.

Ripe, fat, 400-lb. hogs sold at \$2.90, and 116-lb. pigs at \$3.70, and the latter were far easier to sell than the former. This is a year when lean hogs are hard to get, and the big corn crop would make them any more plentiful.

Distillery cattlemen are getting \$1.00 to \$1.20 for good ripe cattle at present.

The Western range cattle are not nearly as good as last year. Receipts are not as large so far, and promise to be considerably smaller for the season.

The sheep market is being flooded with Utah, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado wild-grass sheep, which are selling largely below \$3 per 100 lbs. Dealers fear they will have to sell much lower, and predict an unusually light competition on feeding account.

The corn crop of the country is now well assured, except for severe and general early frosts, and it is nearly as large as last year's enormous crop. Farmers in Kansas and Nebraska will have corn to eat, fatten stock, and to burn.

The oat crop is not nearly so good as expected. The growth was too rapid, and, besides falling and tangling, it has been hurt by rust a great deal.

Farmers are not worrying much about the oat crop, as it is about on a "sixteen-to-one basis"—16 bushels for a dollar—in many parts of the West, and the demand for the grain is apparently not increasing. The bikes and trolley cars don't have to consume oats to put them on their mettle.

Cause and Cure of Cough in Young Pigs.

Cough may come from sore throat or bronchitis in young pigs as in other animals, and may be chargeable to exposure to cold and damp. With sore throat the open mouth may show the throat red, inflamed and swollen. With bronchitis the cough is at first hard and barking, and later soft and gurgling. Both may be treated by a clean, warm, dry, well-littered pen; in the case of weaned pigs, by warm, soft food, and by five-grain doses of muriate of ammonia four or five times a day. A woollen rag tied round the throat or chest, as the case may demand, will often do good, and a teaspoonful of strong ammonia inside this cloth will usually prove valuable as a counter-irritant. In other cases the cough is due to worms in the bronchial tubes of the lungs, and in such a case the affection is likely to attack successive litters in the same pen, irrespective of weather or exposure. The temperature of the body, too, rarely rises above the normal (103 degrees F). The cough is wheezing or rattling, and masses of mucus are sometimes expelled by the mouth. These masses should be carefully examined for the worms, one to two inches long and the thickness of a fine white thread, which will give the certainty of their presence in the lungs. These cases should be treated by fumigations with burning sulphur in a close building, the administrator staying with the animals and letting the air in or the pigs out whenever he finds it too concentrated for his own breathing. This should be done daily for half an hour for a week, and repeated again for the same length of time after an interval of a week. Advantage may also be had from fifteen drops spirits of turpentine in one-half ounce sweet oil for a few days.—Prof. Law, before N. Y. Institute.

In reference to the excellent paper, entitled "Keeping Dairy Cows for Profit," published in our July 15th issue, we should add (as it was overlooked at the time) that it was given by Mr. McIntyre, the writer, before several Ontario (Province) Farmers' Institutes.