

TRYING IS BELIEVING.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I may say I began keeping milk records about 12 years ago, to test the value of a cow I had bought, and, after weighing for a whole season, I found that, while I paid high, she was worth two common ones, and did not sell her till she was very old. About five years I have done it on a larger scale with all my herd, and received blank records from Prof. Grisdale, Experimental Farm, Ottawa, and weighed twice daily some seasons, but found one day in a week suitable for my purpose. I never had a Babcock tester, as my milk was nearly always paid for by weight. When you know weight of can, and have scales convenient, it does not take one minute per cow. You ask what I have learned from my work. Well, I know a poor cow is too dear at any price, as it takes no more time to feed and care for a good one; and I say less, for you like better to attend to a good one that is able to pay a profit. As to figures, I will not give any, as they are only ridiculed by people who will not try for the better, and those who try know. As to its being a benefit, you ask, to those who take good care, I reply, certainly, as they are the ones who should, for they will soon see for themselves.

D. MARSHALL.

Chateaugay Co., Que.

GARDEN & ORCHARD.

PLANTING STRAWBERRIES.

1. When is the best time to plant strawberries in the garden? I intend trying them in another year. Some say August, but I would like to hear from you.

2. Which is the best time to move white or black currant bushes and gooseberry bushes, spring or fall? How many limbs should be left on?

A. CONSTANT READER.

1. Strawberries may be transplanted in August or September, but it is far more satisfactory to leave the transplanting till the following spring. If it is done in the fall, the plants to use are the young runners which have been made the same season, and which have not yet developed very strong roots, so that there is always more or less likelihood of losing them by transplanting at that season, particularly if the season happens to be dry and unfavorable for transplanting. The one advantage claimed for transplanting in the fall is that a light crop may be obtained the following spring. This, however, is so light that there is not much gained by it. By transplanting in the spring, plants of the previous year have become strong and hardy, and there is usually plenty of moisture at the time to insure a good stand of plants when moved to a new plantation. Another advantage of the spring planting is that plants have to be carried through but one winter to get a full crop, whereas, by transplanting in the fall, they have to be taken through two winters to get anything like a full crop, as the first crop is usually too light to pay for the extra care of carrying them through the winter.

2. Currants and gooseberries may be transplanted either in spring or fall. Spring is a much safer time for such work, although with such hardy plants as currants and gooseberries it may often be done quite successfully in the fall, if the season is at all favorable for transplanting.

H. L. HUTT.

CABBAGE AND TURNIP CATERPILLARS.

Three different caterpillars have been sent for identification by an East Middlesex subscriber. They belong to widely-different families of the order Lepidoptera, which includes butterflies and moths. The first specimen is dark velvety green, without any spots or other markings, and is the larva of the common white cabbage butterfly. It feeds upon nasturtium, mignonette, stocks, etc., as well as upon cabbages and cauliflowers. As it would be dangerous to use Paris green or other arsenical poisons on vegetables which are to be used as food, the best remedy for these caterpillars is Pyrethrum (or Persian) insect powder, which is quite harmless to human beings and the higher animals. One pound of the insect powder should be mixed with four pounds of flour and kept in a tight jar for about twenty-four hours; after that, the mixture may be dusted over the plants by putting it into a muslin bag and tapping it with a slender stick. In the case of large cabbages, it should be dusted freely between all the loose leaves around the head. This will kill the caterpillars, and not affect the plants in any way.

The second caterpillar is a specimen of the variegated cutworm, which is so widespread and doing so much damage this year. In the county of Essex it has devastated many acres of crops and vegetables, and all through Western Ontario it is destroying green tomatoes, cabbages and all sorts of garden products, both flowers and vege-

tables. In London the horticulturists are almost in despair, as their tuberous begonias, gladioli and other choice flowers, which are usually free from insect attack, are being destroyed. Like other cutworms, this creature feeds mostly at night and remains in concealment during the daytime. The most convenient remedy is to thoroughly mix one ounce of Paris green in four pounds of flour or bran, and dust in a little brown sugar. This mixture should be sprinkled around the plants at nightfall, and the worms, when they come out, will devour it in preference to the vegetation. The application should be repeated after a few days, to make sure of killing all the worms.

The third specimen, which is covered with bunches of long hairs arising from warts on each segment of the body, is one of the woolly-bear caterpillars, which turns into a Tiger or Ermine moth. These insects are seldom numerous, and may therefore be got rid of by hand picking. If the application can be made without danger, as in the case of turnips, an ounce of Paris green in ten gallons of water may be used for spraying the foliage of the plant which is attacked.

O. A. C., Guelph.

C. J. S. BETHUNE.

POULTRY.

STAMPING EGGS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I read with interest Mr. Henry's letter on the stamping of eggs, and, from experience in the Danish egg market, I can endorse his remarks.

A few years ago my brother accepted the agency for Scotland for a leading firm in Denmark, and the first to introduce the stamped eggs into Scotland.

As the scheme was novel, and many grocers very conservative in their ideas, it was uphill work at first making a connection. However, when the objection to having a stamp on the egg at the breakfast table was overcome, people came to see that, instead of being a drawback, it was really the best guarantee that the egg was fresh and good, and now many people use stamped Danish eggs always, in preference even to country eggs, as they find they can always be depended on.

They certainly have a splendid system of working, the Government, farmers and shippers all combining for their own interests. The eggs are sold by weight, so that it is entirely to the farmers' benefit to perfect a breed of hens from which the best results will be obtained. On the other hand, the shippers find it policy to pay the farmer the very best price for his eggs, and thus insure the best attention.

This system of weighing is also excellent. All the eggs are carefully examined and sorted into sizes, so that a person selling a dozen good eggs would receive much more than the person selling a dozen small ones, whereas selling by the dozen and getting all one price does not give much encouragement to try and perfect the stock, as long as a hen will lay at all.

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, and whereas a few years ago stamping was unheard of, now it would be difficult to find "the proverbial exception to prove the rule."

The firm referred to is called the Dansk Andds Aegexport (Danish Farmers Egg Export), and each egg has a small stamp, D. A. E.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

L. SAMSON.

THE FARM BULLETIN.

ENLIGHTENMENT RE THE O. A. C.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Having looked over the answer of Mr. Creelman to my enquiries, re the "Model Farm," will say I am sorry you had to trouble that gentleman. I wished the answer to have come from your office, and in very different style. I did not mention the lads from Ontario, nor one word as to the Macdonald Institute, which is a separate concern entirely. I thought that you could and would, through your paper, which is looked on as voicing the agricultural interests of this Province, have given the number of foreigners attending the farm as students, and the amount they pay, and what it costs those engaged in agriculture to give these foreigners their education; also, the benefit the people of this Province derive by so doing. There were over one hundred outsiders attending the institution last year. How many became residents permanently, and many other items of a like nature might be alluded to; for instance, the salaries of the different professors, etc.; also the cause of the late advance, which I am told took place last spring. All these things, I, for one, think should be made known to the farming community in particular, so that the public may be able to draw proper conclusions. If these matters were brought before the people, it might lead to discussion, whereby the public would be enlightened, and enlightenment was my object in my first communication, and is so still.

D. MESSENGER.

Wellington Co., Ont.

P. E. ISLAND NOTES.

At this date, August 4th, we are in the middle of haying here. The hay crop is not much more than half an average. There is no clover, except 'round the fences where the snow laid. Timothy is very thin, and there is not much white clover in the bottom to thicken it up. The unusual weather conditions last winter killed out much of the timothy, and seemed to weaken much of what was left, so that it did not come to maturity. If our summer season had not been the most favorable for growth we would have had little hay. June was dry and cold, but July was warm, with plenty of rain. The rainfall for July was above the average, amounting to nearly 5½ inches. Grain crops are heavy in the straw, and much of the oats will likely lodge if the wet continues. The joint worm has destroyed the wheat in a very large section along the north side of the Island. There has not been so much sown in this section, where the joint worm was so bad last season. In another year its ravages will likely extend all over the Province. It will be better for farmers to give up wheat growing for a year or two till the pest dies out. It is said that it only lasts three or four years, or till the parasite that preys on the fly increases sufficiently to destroy it. Harvest will be late. There will be little or no grain cut till September.

The potato crop promises to be the best for years, and bugs are very scarce—not enough to do any damage so far. Turnips are growing finely, but are thin, many of the plants having been destroyed by the red ants after thinning, when they were quite a size. We have had this trouble in our turnips before, but it is worse this year than ever it was. We would like if "The Farmer's Advocate" could suggest some remedy for it. Fodder corn is doing well, but the season, I fear, is too late to allow it to mature sufficiently to make the best fodder; but a warm August and September may make it all right yet. The frequent rains are keeping the pastures fresh, and the milk supply is well up at the cheese factories.

We will have three exhibitions here this fall. The county shows are making preparations to show what they can do in comparison with the Provincial show. We have had no county shows here for a number of years, and many question their utility, claiming that the Island is only big enough for one good educational exhibition. The Provincial Exhibition, open to the Maritime Provinces, will be held in Charlottetown from October 8th to 11th, inclusive.

Fat cattle are still being imported by the carload from Ontario to supply our markets.

The editorial in the August 1st number on "The Rural School and the Farmer" has the right ring, and we hope to see it discussed by farmers and educationists. It is certainly time that the curriculum of our rural schools was revised and brought more in touch with agriculture, our greatest Canadian industry, for it is in the rural school that nine-tenths of our children get all their schooling. Our high schools and colleges are only for the few that can afford time and means to take advantage of them. Let the motto of our educational system be, "The greatest good to the greatest number," and the greatest number of Canadians will always be of the agricultural class.

WALTER SIMPSON.

SOUTH PERTH FARM NOTES.

The hay crop is housed and the wheat cut. The former is much better than expected, but hardly an average crop, excepting first cutting, which in low, well-drained places did extra well, not being much winter-killed. Wheat is very good, both for straw and grain. The oat blight is common in this locality, but evidently will not much affect the yield of grain, if the appearance of heading is any criterion by which to be guided. Barley is all right, and peas are reported to be quite free of "bugs." The area of millet is greater than usual to provide for possible shortage of fodder. Corn and roots are doing well; apples are promising, but small fruits will be a little scarce. Nectar secretion was abundant, but colonies of bees, generally, were not in fit condition to gather it. In fact, nature has done her part well thus far this season, and the husbandman will have only himself to blame if he does not save a few dimes to pay his higher taxes and higher-priced implements.

J. H. BURNS.

'FAIR DATES FOR 1907.

Aug. 23-30—Iowa State, Des Moines.
Aug. 26 to Sept. 9—Canadian National, Toronto.
Aug. 29 to Sept. 6—Detroit, Mich.
Sept. 2-14—Dominion Exhibition, Sherbrooke, Que.
Sept. 6-14—Western Fair, London.
Sept. 9-13—Indianapolis, Ind.
Sept. 9-14—New York State Fair, Syracuse.
Sept. 13-21—Canada Central, Ottawa.
Sept. 14-21—Fredericton, N. B.
Sept. 17-19—Guelph.
Sept. 18-20—Woodstock.
Sept. 19-20—Brampton.
Sept. 25 to Oct. 3—Halifax, N. S.
Sept. 27 to Oct. 5—Springfield, Ill.
Oct. 8-11—Charlottetown, P. E. I.

The Michigan State Railroad Commissioners have received word from the Lake Shore, Michigan Central, Wabash and Big Four railroads, that they will comply with the new two-cent fare law, which goes into effect September 17th.