

Farming in Prince Edward Island.

SIR,—You will, I have no doubt, make space in your valuable paper for a few lines on the agriculture of Prince Edward Island. Crops in the Island have been very good. The wheat crop is excellent, and has been harvested in fine condition, the weather having been very favorable. Farming has improved very much of late years; composting barn manure, marsh and swamp mud is extensively entered into. Several of our farmers have put up this season from 500 to 1,000 loads. It is found to be excellent for potatoes. Then we have four lime kilns at the wharf kept burning most of the time. They supply the demand excepting the wheat sowing season, when it becomes pressing, as we consider it useless to sow wheat or grass seed without lime. The Hon. Joseph Pope, it is said, was the first to introduce the composting of marsh mud and lime, who found them to make the best fertilizer known during his farming career.

A. B., Cape Traverse, P. E. I.

SIR,—I appreciate the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, and would not be without it, though money is very scarce down here. The National Policy is running us off the track, however it may benefit you in Ontario. Prospects are good in P. E. I., and an excellent crop of hay has been harvested in fair condition. The wheat is injured somewhat with weevil, still with fine weather a fair crop will be secured. Potatoes and oats promise abundantly. In some sections farmers are turning their attention to stock raising. On account of the uncertainty of the markets abroad for our potatoes, farmers are turning their attention to starch factories. At Eldon, Belfast, Shedd, Moore & Co. have a factory and last winter used up a large quantity of tubers; another factory is also in course of erection at St. Peter's Bay, farmers in that section having pledged themselves to supply them.

A. A. M., Montague Bridge, P. E. I.

SIR,—If not too much trouble I would be pleased to get information on the following questions through your valuable columns:—1. Are not long keeping winter apples more profitable for general culture than the summer and fall varieties? 2. Name six best late keepers in order of preference for market growing. 3. Name a list of pears, with time of ripening, which will give a succession of ripe fruit from the earliest summer up to the latest ripening winter pears. 4. Name six best varieties of plums. 5. Name four best varieties each of black, red and white grapes for out-door culture. 6. Name best kinds of red and black raspberries, each to give a succession. 7. Name best kind of black, red and white currants. 8. Name two earliest, two medium and two latest ripening kinds of strawberries. 9. Are blackberries and gooseberries profitable, and if so, what kinds? 10. What is the best work on large and small fruits; and who is the author? I fear I am asking too much; am a farmer's son and intend to grow fruit for market. Advice from practical experience will save costly experiments.

A. S. B., Demorestville, Ont.

[1. Yes, because they can be shipped to foreign markets, where remunerative prices can always be realized, while summer and fall varieties have to depend on the local demand, which the supply always exceeds, consequently they must be sacrificed. 2. Rhode Island Greening, Green Newton Pippin, Northern Spy, Roxburgh Russet, Swaar and Baldwin, to which we would like to supplement Swazie Pomme Grise, American Gold Russet and Mann Apple. 3. Doyenne d'Ete, Beune Giffard, Manning's Elizabeth, Osband Summer, Clapp's Favorite, Bartlett, Flemish Beauty, Sheldon, Duchess d'Angouleme, Beurred, Aryan, Josephine de Malines. 4. Lombard, Yellow Egg, Washington, Imperial Gage, Pond's Seedling and Coe's Golden Drab. 5. Rog No. 4, 36, Concord, Moore's Early; Rog No. 15, Brighton, Delaware; Rog. No. 53, Allen's Hybrid, Lady, Niagara, Lady Washington (Rickett's). 6. Franconia, Mammoth Cluster. 7. Black Naples, Lee's Black, London Red Cherry, Red Victoria, White Grape. 8. Downer's Prolific, Mianor, Wilson's Albany, Calchenev Triumph de Gand, Kentucky. 9. They are; the best kind of blackberry is Kitatinning; of gooseberries we recommend Downing & Smith's Improved. If your soil is clay try some English varieties, such as White Smith, Sulphur, Crown Bob, Warrington Red, &c. 10. The best, most practical work on fruit and fruit trees and fruit garden is P. Barry's "Fruit Garden."]

The Currant Borer.

SIR,—While fruit generally is an excellent crop this season, currants were an exception. Red currants especially were a failure. The blossoms sent out were so feeble that they fell off prematurely and there were hardly any berries, and what there were shrivelled up without coming to perfection. Black currants were a light crop, but this was caused by a May frost. As slight as it was it nipped many of the blossoms that were then about setting. I would wish to know through the ADVOCATE what affected our red currants and what remedy to make use of, if there is a remedy.

W., Stratford.

[Your currant bushes have, we judge from your letter, been infested by the currant borer, an insect that has for some time been very injurious in our gardens. It is closely allied to the peach tree borer. It deposits eggs about June or July, selecting just under a leaf a place for the purpose. The young, when come to life, penetrates to the centre of the shoot, living on its substance, and remaining there till early the following spring, when it comes out a perfect insect about the time the currant is in flower. We have had some currant bushes so much injured that the fruit was not worth picking. White currants have been even more injured by the borers than the red, while black currants have been uninjured by them. There is no remedy for them at this season. The bushes should be examined early in the year. Wherever there are strong, vigorous shoots you may not examine them, for a young branch cannot be strong and have a borer in it. Look carefully to the weak ones. The mark where the egg has been laid will be easily seen, like a little black dot on the brown bark. On splitting this shoot up the centre you will find it hollow, the pith having been eaten out by the insect, which you will find in the upper end.]

SIR,—I have been advised to plant a Honey Locust Hedge in front of my place along the road. Others say that Canadian thorn is better, as it is a native of this country and is hardier. Have you had any experience of the Honey Locust tree? Is it hardy enough to live in Canada, and would it make a strong, close hedge that would prevent the trespassing of cattle? Rails and posts are not so easily procured now as they once were, and we require fences of some kind.

A. F.

[The Honey Locust has not been much planted in this part of the country; it is a native of the United States. We have had some experience with it, and can say that it is very hardy. We have it growing in a very exposed situation with a northern aspect, and our winters do not affect it in the least. It is a rapid grower. Whether it will answer well for hedges here remains to be tried. It has been planted for hedges in the States. In parts of Illinois it was tried some years ago with indifferent success. After a few years the plants died out after growing well for a time. The cause of this failure is said to have been want of care. The plants were not winter killed, but the strongest ones dwarfed and destroyed the others. In Wisconsin, on the other hand, the hedge planting has succeeded well; there it was taken proper care of. In the milder climate of Illinois the hedge was rendered useless by neglect. Its strong stem and branches and lance-like thorns are enough to make a hedge formidable to any cattle attempting to break through it. To make a close hedge, however, the pruning knife must be unsparingly but judiciously used, otherwise the branches will grow long and straggling and will not make what is a close hedge. Of the hardness of the Canadian thorn there can be no doubt, but it is of slow growth. It can be raised by the farmer himself, and the seed is easily procured, or the plants may be procured from nurserymen. There is no better hedge than the Canadian thorn.]

MY EXPERIENCE IN MULCHING STRAWBERRIES.—Early in the fall, having freed the land from weeds, I sowed drills of oats between the rows of strawberries. The oats grew rank in the fertile cultivated soil till killed by the frost, and then fell down over the strawberries, completely protecting them from being winter-killed. They grew early in spring, the frost-killed foliage of the oats serving as a good fertilizer. The warmth of the soil from this mulching stimulated the growth of the plants, while protecting them from May frosts. The cultivation when sowing the oats is also a means of killing young weeds that are found so annoying to strawberry growers.

M. C.

The Model Farm Stock.

SIR,—In your last issue, Sarawak, in a strange, rambling letter, which was very exaggerated in many points, attacked my criticism on the stock at the Model Farm generally. In defence of my position I may say, when I go to the Model Farm I do so to inspect it and gain information, if possible, and not to eat good dinners at Government expense, and waste time in the dining hall which should be spent in the cattle pens.

The position I took in my last letter I now maintain. Where credit was due them I gave it, and where they deserved criticism they got it, though in a very mild form. I have frequently seen and heard very severe criticisms on the above mentioned stock from experienced and successful farmers, and one now before me, written by a Granger, who visited the farm last summer, to the Bruce Herald, speaks very severely of it without giving it a redeeming point. Not that I am governed by the opinions of others, but to show you that others coincide with me. In fact the Principal does not claim that many of the animals are first-class.

At the recent Toronto show it is probable they exhibited their best animals, and while there were some good ones among them, many were inferior to those belonging to private breeders, who do not get a large Government grant to help them along. From the Toronto Globe we extract the following remarks which were made concerning animals at said exhibit. We in Ontario all know the Globe is very favorable to the College, and will give it all the credit possible. In speaking of the Angus bull, Gladiolus, after a few descriptive remarks, they say:—"In shape he is not more than a second class animal, being hollow behind the shoulders, thin over the croup, and not wide behind." Again, speaking of the Devon bull, they say: "He was imported as a calf, and has turned out small for the breed." This in the Devon, especially a stock bull, all know to be a very bad failing, as the breed is already too small to be appreciated in this country. The Hereford bull the Globe also characterizes as under size, though good otherwise. Slight fault is also found with the Berkshire boar. Of the Cotswold ram they make the remark, "he appears rather too leggy." These remarks on stock males are not very flattering. If the Globe had said the Cotswold ram was not fit to use in a first-class flock it would have been correct, and they might have used the same language concerning the Durham bull as regards his use upon a first-class herd of cows. Regarding the sale of the Hereford calf spoken of in Sarawak's letter it certainly was a good price. I did not say there were no good animals at the College, but what is one among so many? And we are really inclined to think the College made a double mistake in selling this one: 1st. To establish a good herd or flock the best animals must be kept in the breeding herd, not sold, and yourself breed from culls. 2nd. If the animal was to be sold, should it not have been kept until their annual auction sale and allowed the Canadian farmers a chance of owning it; and if Cousin Jonathan was willing to pay more than Canadians, then let him have it; but by all means let the Canadians have a chance of owning what has been produced at their expense. STOCKMAN.

Mules.

SIR,—I noticed a communication in the September No. of your valuable journal, asking for information about mules. I imported a Spanish Jack in the spring of 1877. Some of his mules are now coming three years old. They are all heavy animals, standing 15 to 16 hands high, and are highly prized by the farmers in this section of country, so much so that the agricultural society at this township have offered prizes to be given at the Ameliasburg central fair, to be held on the 9th October, for the best Jack, and three prizes for mules in each of the following classes:—Sucking, yearling, two year old and three year old mules, also for the best span of mules. For general farm purposes they are considered much harder and thrive well on food unsuitable for laboring horses. Disease is almost unknown amongst them. When I purchased my Jack they were held at from \$600 to \$1200, and I understand they are worth more now.

J. C., Consec, Ont.

[The price of Spanish Jacks will be found to vary from \$200 upward, according to age and quality of animal, and the locality in which they are bought also has an influence over the price.]