

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.
Miscellaneous.

CEMENT HOG TROUGH.

Would like you to publish plans and directions for making cement hog troughs.
D. S.

Ans.—Anyone familiar with cement work can contrive a casing in which a suitable hog trough can be formed. Ordinary boards or planks can be used. Many prefer sloping sides, with two or three inch bottom. Place a frame the required length, width and height, where the trough is to be, allowing two and a half or three inches space for cement. Soak this core in water and ram the concrete firmly, but gently, filling all the space under and around the core level with the top. One part of high-grade Portland cement to two or three parts of clean, sharp sand, or fine gravel, is about the proper strength. In a few hours the core can be removed. Then cover with straw, chaff or canvas, in order to retain the moisture until it is perfectly hard.

IMPROVING LIGHT MEADOW.

I have an old meadow which I cannot break up this spring. I would like to know what I can do to improve the crop this year? It was light last year. Would harrowing and rolling do any good, and at what time should it be done? I have enough manure to apply.
W.B.

Ans.—Your best plan is to make judicious use of well-rotted manure. Give a reasonably good application this spring, preferably with a manure spreader, just as soon as the sod is in condition to go on it with this implement. It will give an even covering, fairly well broken up. It might be well then to give a stroke with the harrows in order to work the manure well down into the grass. The spring rains will wash down the fertilizing ingredients and greatly improve your crop of hay. It might be well also to re-seed with a hand seeder before the manure is applied. The fresh seeding would ensure a bottom growth that will be of value next fall as pasture.

A LEAKY ROOF.

I built a barn in 1907 with a tin roof; the man that had the job for the carpenter work was also agent for the tin roofing. I ordered roofing from him, and he put it on, by the day, carpenter work all being done by the day also. My roof leaks most awfully; carpenter had promised to fix it; two of his men were here at it, but did not improve it any, and manufacturers of roofing had promised to send a man to look after it, but never did so. I have paid for material and think the trouble lies in the way it was put on.

1. Can he make me pay in full for putting on roof?
2. If I hire another man and get it fixed this spring, and pay for it, could he get at me after it is fixed satisfactorily?

Ans.—1. No.
2. You would be entitled to deduct from the balance due the carpenter whatever may reasonably have to be expended by you in completing and perfecting his work, after first giving him an opportunity to fix the roof himself.

GRASS SEED—RAPE AND ALSIKE ON MUCK SWAMP.

Give a good grass seed for seeding down swamp land for pasture. It has muck on top. Will rape do well on it? What time should it be sown, and how much to the acre? Will alsike do well for seed on low land, or will it grow too rank?
G. H. H.

Ans.—For pasture, 8 pounds red-top, 3 pounds timothy, 3 pounds Kentucky blue grass, and 2 or 3 pounds of alsike clover, should give fair returns. It would be wise, however, to crop it with some rank-growing crop for a few years before seeding down. Rape will do well provided the swamp land is well drained. Sow it in June, just before a rain, if possible, at the rate of 4 to 6 pounds per acre, on a well-prepared seed-bed. Roll and harrow with a light harrow after sowing. Alsike does better than the other clovers on low land, but thrives best on a deep, well-drained loam. As a rule, the heads do not fill well on land that produces a rank growth of leaf and stem. A great deal, however, depends on weather conditions during the blossoming and ripening seasons.

FOXHOUNDS WANTED.

Can you tell me in your next issue the address of some Canadian breeder of pure-bred foxhounds?
J. W. K.

Ans.—Those having foxhounds for sale will do well to advertise. It will be of no use sending us replies to be forwarded to the inquirer. Such will promptly find the waste basket.

SCRATCHES.

Brood mare, in foal, is affected with hereditary scratches. What treatment do you recommend?
A. J.

Ans.—As the mare is in foal, avoid purgatives. Give one ounce Fowler's Solution of Arsenic three times daily, every alternate week, as long as necessary. Poultice the heels with warm linseed meal, with a little powdered charcoal, for two days and nights; put fresh poultices on every eight hours, and then dress three times daily with a lotion consisting of one ounce each sulphate of zinc and acetate of lead, and two drams carbolic acid, to a pint of water. Do not wash the legs. If they get wet, rub them dry. If muddy, allow to get dry, then brush with wisp of straw till clean.

OX-EYE DAISY—WILD CARROT.

Will a good handful of salt, thrown on a stalk of ox-eye daisy in the pasture, kill it for all time? How many times will this weed seed in a year, or how would you say is the best way to get rid of it? Wild carrot is also making good headway in many places. Give treatment.
W. S.

Ans.—Salt, or strong brine, is recommended for destroying many weeds, and is satisfactory on lawns, or in places where only a small area is to be attended to, and where the weeds are not numerous. Even in such cases, however, most weeds can be fought much more successfully by pulling or spudding. On large areas, neither plan is advisable. Ox-eye daisy blossoms once in a season, usually in June or July. In rare cases, and under certain conditions, it is possible that bloom may appear later. This weed is best combated by seeding to clover and timothy for hay. The ox-eye daisy blossoms, but has not ripened its seed, before the hay is cut. Then, by plowing the ground, the old plants are destroyed. Short rotation, with frequent hoe and hay crops, will eradicate the pest. Wild carrot is a biennial plant, and seldom gives much trouble in land that can be cultivated thoroughly. When in grass, mow frequently, to prevent seeding.

CROSS-BREEDING—A MONSTROSITY.

I have had common ewes and used a registered Shropshire ram; now I have to change my ram.

1. What breed would you recommend to cross with my ewe lambs, the Leicester or the Lincoln? Reason I want to cross my flock is to get the size.

2. I have a ewe that lambed a few days ago; the lamb has one front leg, natural, the other is shorter, and has no hind legs; he is strong and healthy. Any reasons for this? What would you advise to do with the lamb?
J. C.

Ans.—1. There is no advantage in breeding for large size in sheep, or any other butcher's stock under present-day market conditions. Large animals eat more and cost more to raise than medium-sized ones, and sell for no more per pound. The most approved principle in breeding to grade up a flock or herd, and to secure uniformity of type, is to continue using superior sires of the same breed. Crossing your grades with males of another breed is a pretty sure method of producing an uneven class of mongrels. If you decide to look to another breed for a ram, it will make little, if any, difference which of the two named is chosen. In any case, choose a ram with indications of a strong constitution, a broad forehead, short, thick neck, a short, strong back, and good legs, well placed.
2. This is a monstrosity, an accident in breeding which cannot be accounted for. The best thing to do with it is to sell it to a butcher while it is young, if it is in good condition.

TRADE TOPIC.

We are advised that the Imperial Bank of Canada has opened a branch of the bank in Gowganda, Ont.

FENCE TALK No. 3

Page Wire Fences only seem to cost a cent or two more a rod than common wire fence. They really cost fully three cents a rod less—and then some. Figure it for yourself:

Page Fence horizontal wires—the wires that have to stand the pulling strain, are made of a grade of steel wire termed “high carbon.” Other fences’ horizontals are “hard steel,” or hard drawn wire, at best.

High-carbon Page wire will stand a strain of 2,400 pounds.

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Well, that is only a part of the saving you make on every mile of Page Fence you put up, as compared with any other fence. Our free book, sent from the nearest Page place for your asking, tells the rest—and tells you how to prove Page betterness beforehand.

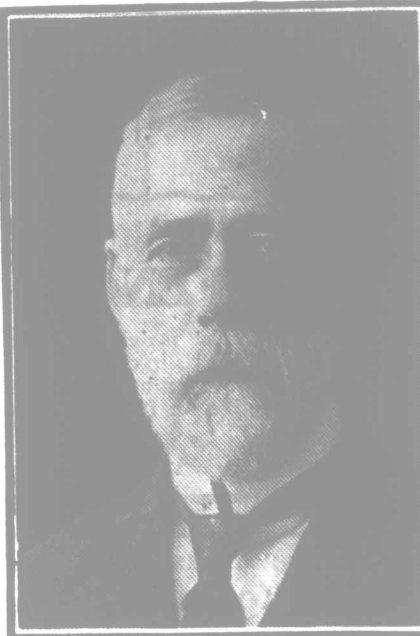
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