

water-soaked, flush with the top of finished wall. In two or three days this scantling will lift out, and as long as possible water should be contained in this trench, which will serve to harden the wall. Keep the wall wet for a couple of weeks, when the roof or upper structure may be put on, and you have an ideal root house wall.]

Service Fee.

W. H. M., Victoria Co., N. B.:—"I have a registered Jersey bull, solid color, black tongue and switch. Have had him two years; will be three years old in April. He is the only registered Jersey bull in this county that I know of. He has served one cow only since I got him, outside of my own. When I got him home he just cost me 'seventy dollars.' I offered his service for five dollars per cow. If I was guaranteed more than ten cows, I would give the service for three dollars. Now, sir, would you kindly tell me through the columns of the ADVOCATE if I have asked too much for the bull's service; if so, kindly state what his service ought to be worth in a community where there is no pure-bred bulls of any kind?"

[The very fact that little else but scrub cattle are kept in the vicinity referred to is sufficient indication that there is too little enterprise among the farmers to appreciate the blood of any superior stock. We therefore conclude the fee of five dollars is more than such people are likely to pay. The usual fee for pure-bred bulls is two dollars for grade cows and five for pure-breds. No doubt if two dollars were charged in the case in question, and the half-bred calves pleased the farmers, the bull's services would soon be in sufficient demand to make him a profitable animal at two dollars per cow.]

San Jose Scale and Nursery Stock.

JOHN R. FRASER, Pictou Co., N. S.:—"Please give the names of several nurserymen whose trees are strictly free from the San Jose scale, or in which counties in Ontario does it exist?"

[So far as we can learn, the scale only exists in three or four counties, including Essex, Wentworth, and Lincoln; and Ontario nurserymen who grow their own stock are probably all free from the scale. The new Ontario Act (referred to in our Feb. 1st issue) is immediately going into effect, and with its stringent application and a proper oversight by the Dominion authorities of imported stock by inspection, etc., the trouble will be effectually checked. The Canadian Government can require all imported stock to be accompanied by certificates as to its freedom from the pest. We notice that the American authorities themselves have adopted measures preventing the sale of infected stock.]

Thrashing Brome Grass.

B. C. T., Pilot Mound:—"I have some Brome grass that I intend to thresh for seed; what place would you recommend; will the ordinary grain separator do this properly?"

[We cut the Brome grass with a grain binder, and thresh with the common grain separator. At first we threshed the whole sheaf, latterly we have held the sheaf in the cylinder until the head was threshed and threw out the butt of the sheaf unthreshed; by this means we avoid a good deal of labor in fanning. S. A. BEDFORD, Supt. Manitoba Experimental Farm.]

Tares or Peas for Fodder?

C. R. A., Cartwright:—"Which do you prefer, tares or peas for green fodder, to be fed to sheep and cattle?"

[We prefer tares for the purpose mentioned, as the fodder is of a better quality; the seed is, however, more difficult to obtain, and higher in price than peas. We have had fair success in growing tares for seed by mixing one peck of oats with two bushels of tares; this is sufficient for one acre. The combined crop is cut with a binder and threshed by power, and the oats separated from the tares with a fanning mill. S. A. BEDFORD, Supt. Manitoba Experimental Farm.]

Rape with Fall Wheat Seeded to Clover.

JAMES HAYDEN, Algoma District, Ont.:—"Will it do to sow rape with fall wheat for pasture, it being seeded with clover and timothy which we intend for a meadow? If so, how much seed per acre, and at what date should it be sown?"

[We never get clover too far advanced the first year, but would frequently like to see it much larger than it usually gets to withstand the winter. It would, therefore, be very unwise to sow rape among wheat seeded to clover, as the clover would be very much weakened, if not entirely destroyed, by the rape following the wheat.]

What Crop to Grow on Sod.

J. F., Lanark Co., Ont.:—"What would be the best use to put 20 acres of sod to this spring? What would you put in it? What would grow in it—it is good soil? Your answer to No. 3 by Dr. Saunders says to try mixtures for hay. Would these mixtures do on newly plowed sod? You say to sow clover with all cereals. Would it do to sow clover on the sod with the mixture?"

[If peas do well in your district, we should say they would be the best crop to grow on the land, as they do not require very rich soil, and do not draw heavily upon the land, but gather nitrogen from the air and store it in the nodules on the roots. The crop should be cut with a mower with pea-harvesting attachment, which leaves the roots and nodules on the land. It is not usual to seed to

clover with a crop of peas, but we have seen a fair catch of clover with such crop. Part of the field might well be sown with mixed grain to be cut green for fodder or made into hay. In that case clover might be sown, and if the season is favorable might prove a catch. The mixture would probably do fairly well on spring plowing, but would do better on land plowed in the fall. Peas generally do best on land plowed in the spring. Good crops of ensilage corn are sometimes grown on fresh plowed sod with good cultivation. Oats would grow on it, but we would not recommend sowing oats on spring plowing. Sometimes they do fairly well, but not generally.]

Tree Seeds for Planting.

R. MACONACHIE, Victoria Co., Ont.:—"Referring to some very interesting papers published a little time back in the ADVOCATE about planting trees, can you inform me (1) where to get good walnut, hickory, and butternut seed for planting; (2) what time of the year is best for sowing?"

[1. I beg to say that the nuts of these trees suitable for planting can be obtained from the Steele, Briggs Company, seedsmen, of Toronto, and probably from the other seedsmen as well.

2. The spring of the year, just as soon as the frost is out of the ground, is the best time for planting. They can be put in the ground in the fall, but are more liable to be destroyed by vermin than if left until spring. They ought not to be covered too deeply. It is not necessary to have the soil cover the nuts thicker than about the diameter of the nut if the soil is sufficiently moist. If the ground is fairly mellow it will, I think, be sufficient to drop the nuts on the ground and press them in the soil with the foot.

THOMAS SCUTTHORTH,
Clerk of Forestry for Ontario.

These nuts are subject to duty, but our Government at Ottawa should remit this when for planting. I did not succeed in getting the duty taken off or remitted. There are walnuts about Ruthven, Essex Co., Ont., in some quantity. Hiram Clifford, at that place, would be a reliable man to get them, if obtainable. However, I could not find enough there to begin to supply my wants for planting, and not any hickory nuts in Ontario. Hence, I was forced to apply to William H. Conant, Potterville, Eaton Co., Michigan (a station on G. T. R.). The hickory nuts also came from him. So far as I know, the shell-bark hickory nuts are not obtainable in any quantity in Ontario. After paying the cost in Michigan, duty and freight, the nuts cost less than I could get the seed for in Ontario. The planter must remember not to allow the nuts to dry out. You know a dried beech nut will not grow. Get them with the burr on, if possible. Plant in the fall, and cover lightly. Oshawa, Ontario. THOS. CONANT.]

MARKETS.

Toronto Markets.

Attention has again been called to the agitation with a view to remove the Western Cattle Market to the Dundas street bridges, near the Toronto Junction, and placing same in the hands of a private company known as the Union Stock Yards Company. The city will do well to pause before allowing a valuable franchise to pass into the hands of a powerful monopoly. The dangers are many, and must mean in the future that shippers would have to pay increased rates and fees and exorbitant charges for fodder, and would most probably have the effect of diverting the now growing trade to other market centers. This year the expenses of running the department will be \$7,000, and the rents will bring the annual cost to \$11,000, leaving a clear balance to the good of \$21,000.

Export Cattle.—Market weak and prices declined 10c. per cwt. The bulk of fat cattle offered were butchers' stuff, \$3.85 to \$4.25 per cwt.

Butchers' Cattle.—The trade in butchers' cattle was slow; good to choice sold at from 3c. to 3 1/2c. per lb.; common sold down as low as 2 1/2c. per lb. William Levaack bought 140 cattle, mixed, at \$2.90 to \$3.85. Mr. W. Murray, of Hamilton, bought one carload of 20 cattle, 1,070 lbs. average, at \$3.80. Mr. A. Levaack bought 17 cattle, 1,080 lbs. average, at \$4. These were the choicest heaves on the market, and fetched the top price of the day. Mr. S. Halligan bought one load of butchers' cattle for Montreal, 1,150 lbs. average, at \$3.50. Six carloads of cattle were taken for Montreal.

Bulls.—Good demand for bulls, at from \$3 to \$3.60. These are wanted for tying up and feeding in the sheds previous to export.

Stockers.—The trade in this line is somewhat firmer, selling at \$3 to \$3.50 per cwt.

Feeders are in good demand; prices are firmer, and wanted, at \$3.60 to \$3.90 for choice. Buffalo men are not operating so freely on this market.

Lambs were too abundant; many not sold at the close of the day. Prices went from \$5 to \$5.30 per cwt., \$3 to \$5.75 per head.

Sheep are unchanged, at from \$3.25 to \$3.50 per cwt.; bucks at \$2.50 to \$3.

Calves are wanted, at from \$5 to \$8 each for the right kind.

Milk Cows.—About 30 on offer; the demand from outside points was active. They were readily sold at from \$25 to \$50 for choice, and more could have been taken. Local dairymen are filling up for the spring.

Hogs.—The market is in a very disordered state; prices are easy, with still a downward tendency; 150 to 200 lbs., \$4.90 per cwt.; for light, \$4.65; for thick fat, \$4.50; sows at \$3.50; stags, \$2. There is an active demand for stores, at \$4.25 per cwt. We look for a steady advance in the near future; prospects are for a little firmer market next week.

Dressed Hogs were dearer on the local market. Feeling is steady and offerings not so liberal. Choice lightweights quoted at \$6 to \$6.10, and farmers' loads of mixed weights are quoted at \$6.25 per cwt. to \$6.30 for selections.

Grain Market.—About 9,000 bushels delivered to-day. Wheat sold at \$6c. to \$6 1/2c. per bushel; 9 1/2c. to 9c. for red, and \$6c. to \$6 1/2c. for goose.

Hay.—About ten loads per day, at \$8 to \$9.50 per ton. Straw.—Four loads of straw, at \$7 per ton.

Eggs.—The market is not heavily stocked with any line, but the receipts of new laid are more liberal; held, fresh, at 13c. to 14c. per dozen.

Poultry.—Receipts more liberal; ample for present wants. Turkeys range from 10c. to 11c. per lb.

Butter.—Choice dairy butter is rather scarce, and the market is well cleaned up, in good shape to receive supplies. Toronto, February 26th.

Chatty Stock Letter from Chicago.

Following are the current and comparative prices for the various grades of live stock:—

CATTLE.	Extreme Prices.	Top prices		
		Two weeks ago.	1897.	1898.
1500 lbs. up.....	\$4 50 to 5 60	\$5 45	\$5 35	\$4 65
1350 @ 1500.....	4 30 to 5 50	5 35	5 15	4 35
1200 @ 1350.....	4 10 to 5 30	5 25	5 05	4 30
1050 @ 1200.....	4 00 to 5 15	5 00	4 80	4 15
900 @ 1050.....	3 85 to 4 90	4 75	4 70	4 30
Fed Westerns.....	3 80 to 5 10	4 85
Stockers and feeders.....	3 20 to 4 75	4 50	4 20	3 90
Fat cows and heifers.....	3 40 to 4 60	4 50	4 15	3 75
Canners.....	2 00 to 2 80	2 90	2 60	2 40
Bulls.....	2 55 to 4 30	4 00	3 75	3 70
Calves.....	3 50 to 7 00	7 00	6 25	6 25
Texas.....	3 50 to 4 65	4 40	4 20	3 85
Texas C. & B.....	2 60 to 4 15	4 00	3 40	3 25
Corn-fed Texas.....	4 00 to 4 35	4 60

HOGS.

Mixed..... 3 80 to 4 17 1/2 3 95 3 65 4 25
Heavy..... 3 75 to 4 20 4 00 3 62 1/2 4 25
Light..... 3 75 to 4 15 3 90 3 70 4 27
Pigs..... 3 25 to 4 10 3 85 3 67 1/2 4 15

SHEEP.

Natives..... 3 00 to 4 75 4 75 4 25 3 75
Western..... 3 60 to 4 60 4 65 4 10 3 70
Lambs..... 4 50 to 5 75 5 90 5 25 4 70

Thousands of cattle were bought last fall simply because they were cattle, and not because they had any feed lot qualifications. Hence there are large numbers of ill-bred, rough, unfinished cattle that are lacking much of paying their winter's board bill.

The miserable quality of lots of the cattle which buyers were forced to take or go without has resulted in considerable losses. The fat cattle market is in a peculiar condition. The supplies are not large and the quality is poor. There are plenty and more than plenty of immature cattle. Feed lots are being emptied of cattle that have not paid for their feed.

Many thousands of Western branded cattle have been selling for less than total cost, and seeing no chance for improvement on that class of stock, and finding it necessary to meet their monetary obligations, they have forced in cattle that were far from being finished.

At the same time the demand for thrifty young feeding cattle is as strong as ever. The strictly well-bred cattle have paid feeders well, and from present indications will continue to do so. It is a strong argument for better breeding in the herds on the Western plains and ranches, and owners are beginning to see the point. A report from the Pan Handle of Texas says that who would not pay \$50 for a bull three years ago now pay \$150 for one and do not bat an eye. A bull cannot now be made that is too good for our Texas ranches.

The business in Western range cattle is quite active, and the whole range country is fuller of life than for fifteen years past.

The hog market has been doing some "sky-rocketing," and during the past week one load of hogs sold up to \$7 1/2, the highest of the year. The packers have been unloading provisions at good profits. The country hog feeders are exceedingly hopeful of still higher prices, and this fact may have had something to do with supplies at market being higher than expected. On the other hand, the farmers and feeders claim that the reason hogs are not being sent to market more freely is that they are not in the country. One thing is certain, and that is the light average weight of the hog coming, and the premium buyers are paying on big, heavy hogs indicates that the crop of young hogs is being drawn upon. Meantime farmers and feeders are making good money and are generally happy.

It is said the wool clip in New Mexico this year has been 15,000,000 pounds, which has been sold at an average of 10 cents per pound, or \$1,500,000. It is estimated that the number of lambs sold for Northern ranges is 1,000,000, bringing an average of \$2 per head, or \$2,000,000 for all sold. As the entire population of the territory, including Indians, is only 150,000, it will be seen that the sheep alone have put into circulation a per capita of more than \$23. The sheep situation is in a very prosperous and hopeful condition. The price of wool is more freely in that they are not in the country. One thing is certain, and that is the light average weight of the hog coming, and the premium buyers are paying on big, heavy hogs indicates that the crop of young hogs is being drawn upon. Meantime farmers and feeders are making good money and are generally happy.

Among the distinguished visitors was Mr. A. Van Schelle, a representative of the Belgian Government. He is here to investigate our horse business, especially with reference to our export trade; also to see what became of the Belgian stallions which came over here a few years ago. He is of the opinion that American shipments are liable to be overdone, but says the American horses are very popular in that country.

In the matter of colors, dark browns, roans, chestnuts, blacks and even grays are preferred there to bays, and bays with tan-colored legs are almost unsaleable. Mr. Van Schelle was an advocate of careful inspection of breeding animals, and says that custom is observed in his country. He will make his headquarters at the Transit House for a week, when he goes to Indianapolis, St. Louis, Colorado, Wyoming, and Minnesota to see our range horses, and then will return by way of Canada. He has to report upon the equine population of the United States and Canada.

The midwinter sale of Splan & Newgas, at the Chicago Stock Yards, is in progress. The highest prices on the opening day were \$800 for Conductor and \$900 for Alfred G. The total for the first eighty-seven horses sold amounted to \$16,995, an average of \$195.34. During the second day Dorothy Wilkes, by Mistake (2294), brought \$1,350, and Regent (2134), \$1,250.

At the Union Stock Yards there were handled last year 111,618 horses, an increase of over 6,000 on the year preceding. The mares sold better than expected, and the horses not quite so well.

BOOK TABLE.

"The Dear Old Farm."

In these days of modern methods and improvements in all departments of farm life we are apt to forget the hardships of the settlers, the days of which Whittier writes:

I hear the tread of pioneers
Of nations yet to be;
The first low wash of waves where soon
Shall roll a human sea.

We therefore greatly welcome the appearance of a substantial volume, "The Dear Old Farm," where in story form many of the pioneering reminiscences of the past in Western Ontario, graphically told, are preserved. We have gone through its pages with delight, and feel sure that old "Upper Canada" settlers, particularly those in any way acquainted with the "Col. Talbot Settlement" in Elgin Co., will prize it as a treasure. The author of this historical romance, Mr. C. M. Sinclair ("Maleolm"), in early days was, if we are not mistaken, an appreciative reader of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, and we most heartily commend him for his literary effort in "The Dear Old Farm," which is attractively illustrated and published by the Journal Publishing Co., of St. Thomas, Ont. We wish the volume very great success.

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