



Vol. II. No. 7.

Toronto, July, 1883.

\$1 per annum, in advance.

RURAL NOTES.

An Iowa farmer gives his experience of feeding oats to cows last winter. The flow of milk was as flush as in June, and the butter was, if possible better than when the cows were fed on corn.

There is one thing of greater value to the breeder of thoroughbred cattle than a herd book, and that is a capacity to study animals themselves. The best test of an animal is not the record of its fancy blood.

By heavy manuring, deep ploughing, and the turning under of vegetable matter, we guard against the worst effects of drought. Crops on heavily manured land will thrive in times of drought when crops on adjoining plots not fertilized will die, or only make a feeble growth.

Black ants have a sweet tooth for the aphids that is so destructive to the leaves of the rosebush and other flowering shrubs and vines. For this purpose it would be useful to cultivate the friendship of black ants, instead of (as many people do) exterminating them with coal oil or boiling water.

The hay and clover crop throughout Ontario is one of the heaviest that has been grown for many years, but unless there is a change in the weather of the past month farmers will be driven to their wit's end to save it. Owing to the rankness of the clover, specially fine weather is needed for the curing of it.

A writer in one of the English agricultural journals recommends boiled water as a preventive of gapes in chickens. The young chicks should be kept in an enclosure for the first month or six weeks of their lives, and given no water to drink except such as has been boiled. He speaks from an experience of thirty years. Of course the water is allowed to cool before it is given.

Editors should send to the farmer's paper any facts, experiments or suggestions that other people can profit by. Nor need there be any delicacy on the score of style or grammatical accuracy. The editor will see to that, and our experience is that on farm subjects no man can hit the nail on the head more forcibly, or with less waste of words than the farmer. What is wanted is the experience of practical men as it occurs.

The horse that everybody wants is the horse that suits the road, the track, the park, the family and the farm. He is the ideal horse in size, colour, beauty and disposition. He is the horse that fills all the places where horses are needed in our industrial pursuits, and domestic necessities and enjoyments. He is, in short, the horse that

is good for twenty years, and to get him breeders must aim at developing the whole horse, not any special feature.

Lime applied to soils greatly aids in the decomposition of organic matter, and in converting inorganic matter into forms in which they can be taken up by plants. Upon heavy clay soils it has a fine mellowing effect, the particles losing their adhesiveness, and being readily permeable by the tender rootlets of plants. It neutralizes the organic acids contained in what are called sour soils, and is especially active in liberating potash from its combinations.

The best time for cutting grass intended for fodder is doubtless the time of flowering. The saccharine juices that go to develop the seed are then in the stalk and leaves, and the grass mown in this stage is necessarily succulent and palatable. Whether it is cut high or low depends on the nature of the ground. As a rule, timothy should not be cut lower than three inches; if shaved close it is likely to be burnt up, and the roots destroyed by exposure to the sun.

In these days of the free use of Paris Green and other poisonous substances for the destruction of insect pests, care needs to be taken that wells or springs are not contaminated. A heavy rain shower following the application of these poisons may wash them into the water supply of the farm and result in the loss of human or animal life. There is the same risk in the use of commercial fertilizers, and one of our exchanges gives an account of the death of a young man from this cause.

A large business is done by farmers in the neighbourhood of Port Hope in growing peas for seed. That locality has been for several years the favoured one of seedsmen, and great care is taken to prepare the ground and cultivate the crop. But this year it is feared that the labour has been spent for naught. The heavy rains of June have done great injury, and it is doubtful if a quarter crop will be reaped. We hear of one farmer who has seventy acres under peas for seed, and it is almost completely ruined by the rains.

A careful study of the ensilage question shows that the earth pit is the poorest of all silos. The reason is, first, that fermentation is promoted by the air percolating through the earth and acting upon the fodder, and secondly, that the earth absorbs a considerable portion of its liquid substance. A silo constructed of planks is one of the best as well as the cheapest, especially if care be taken to protect the ensilage from frost. The only advantage of the stone silo is, that it is more likely than any other to be frost-proof.

A well known peach-grower in Michigan cuts off one-third of the new wood at the pruning season, and thins out nine-tenths of the young fruit. As a result, his crop is uniformly fine and his peaches are in demand at the highest price in the market. The most successful grape-growers are not less attentive to the thinning out process. One cluster on a shoot is the most they allow, and the best results are frequently obtained by thinning out the one cluster. Fruits and flowers are almost everywhere seen too crowded to thrive, or to fill themselves with flavour and fragrance.

Equal parts of June grass and red top will produce a very fine lawn, if the ground is in fit condition and suitable care is taken of the grass afterwards. The seed may be sown in April or the latter part of September, and that the roots may be properly strengthened the crop should not be cut oftener than twice the first year. The ground should be well trenched, enriched and graded before the seed is sown; if well watered and rolled and mowed, a good velvety sod is almost sure to form. But this requires time. To produce the beautiful lawns of England has been the work of generations.

The *Orilla Packet* says: Mr. Cuppige has given us a new experience, by presenting some specimens of apples whose period naturally ended with the termination of last year, or even sooner. The autumn apples are as good as they were six months ago, and Northern Spys are, now in June, perfect in appearance and flavour. They were pitted under ground and preserved or protected by a dead air chamber surmounting a layer of dead leaves. Piling in heaps and storing beets in the same pit, along with an immense snowdrift on the spot, caused a considerable percentage of loss, which probably might be avoided by some slight modifications and the exercise of more care.

Mr. Saunders, of London, the well-known entomologist, draws attention to the rapid increase of an insect injurious to maple trees. They prefer the soft or red maple, laying their eggs on the bark. The larva hatched out in a few days, penetrates the bark and feeds upon the sapwood, very much to the injury of the tree. Mr. Saunders recommends coating the trees immediately with a mixture of soap and a solution of washing soda or lye, made about the consistence of ordinary paint, and applying it with a brush from the base of the trees upwards to the first branches. The soap solution may be made either from soft or hard soap - if the latter it should be warmed so as to melt it, when it will be the more easily mixed with the solution of washing soda or lye. To prevent increase, the remedy should be applied at once.