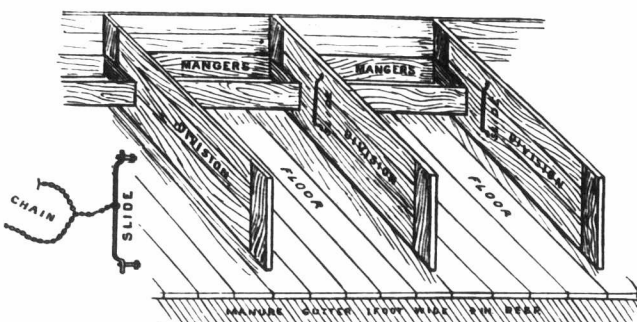


Stall Fastenings for Dairy Cows.

BY GEORGE REBURN, ST. ANNE'S, P. Q.

I would by all means advise the use of the chain in tying cattle. After twenty years experience, I have found this to be the best way. I shall never forget the first time I saw cattle fastened in stanchions; it reminded me of the pictures that I had seen of the way prisoners were punished in the olden times by being put in the stocks, and I cannot understand how any enterprising breeder would for one moment endure it in his buildings. The way we fasten our Jerseys is by a chain sliding up and down on an iron rod, made with 3-in. iron, twenty inches long, bolted to the side of the division top and bottom. All our cows are in single stalls (which is by far the best) four feet wide by seven feet in length, including manger; the divisions are six feet long, three and one-half feet in height at the cow's head, and three feet behind; this is sufficient to separate them, and does not hide them in the least. The divisions are made with



one-inch planed T. & G. boards; posts at each end three by six and grooved sufficiently to allow the board to be sunk into the post. Opposite where the rod is we put a one-inch board on end between the planed boards, so as to have it solid to hold the bolts firmly. This gives a perfectly smooth division three inches thick, and no posts projecting to rub the skin off the animal's hips when it lies down. Our mangers are made so as to slide out like a drawer; they are about four inches above the floor and can be removed at any time to remove any foul stuff that has gathered. We have the front of the stalls boarded up with one and one-quarter-inch boards, but if water is kept in front of the cows a slide will have to be made above the manger so as to feed by it instead of over the top. This is easily done by having a one and a-half inch plank one foot wide, at an angle of forty-five, just above the manger and fastened at every division with iron.

When I make my nightly visit to the stables and notice the comfortable way in which the cattle are resting, with their heads curled round just the same as if they were on pasture, I am satisfied that the chain is by far the best and most humane way.

[NOTE.—Where the stalls are double the one pair of bolts through the division will serve to hold two upright iron rods, one for the cow on each side. Other readers may have in use stalls and fastenings which they prefer to the one described by Mr. Reburn; if so, we would be pleased to receive a detailed description of same, accompanied by a sketch for publication.—Ed.]

Opening Meetings of Cheese Markets.

The Woodstock Dairyman's Board of Trade held its first meeting May 9th. There was a good attendance of salesmen and buyers. The old Board of Management were re-elected, with Mr. J. Anderson as president and Mr. H. S. Loree as secretary.

A communication was read from the Secretary of the Western Ontario Dairyman's Association, recommending certain resolutions concerning the rules governing the selling of cheese for the consideration of the members.

The resolution asking that one-half pound be allowed over and above the weight marked on the box was passed, providing the other markets in the west adopted the same regulation. The scheme of compelling members to sell cheese on the markets only was not so favorably considered. The call system under last year's regulations was again adopted. A resolution was passed arranging for the holding of the market on Tuesday instead of Wednesday, providing the Ingersoll Board could be induced to hold theirs at an earlier hour, so that both markets could be held on the same day. Mr. J. W. Wheaton, London, addressed the meeting.

About 1,500 boxes of cheese were boarded, and were all sold at prices ranging from 10¢ to 10½¢. They were chiefly the first twelve days of May.

LONDON.

There was a good attendance at the opening meeting of the London Cheese Board on Saturday, May 12th. Of the 500 boxes of cheese boarded, 450 were sold at prices ranging from 10½¢ to 10½¢. The first business was the election of officers, when Mr. J. S. Pearce was chosen as president; F. D. Morton, vice-president; J. A. Nelles, secretary-treasurer. The same circular which was submitted to the Woodstock Cheese Board was then laid before the meeting, and occasioned a lively discussion. It was finally decided to leave the decision over until the first meeting in June. At the close of the meeting a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. John Geary, the retiring president. In his reply, Mr. Geary pointed out the necessity of a policy of strict honesty in quality, for both patron and maker, if our cheese business was to prosper.

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

Strawberry Culture.

The strawberry is one of the most easily grown, delicious and healthful of all small fruits, and constitutes a refreshing change after the more heating diet of winter and spring. A very small plot of ground will produce more than sufficient for a large family, not only during the ripening season, but for canning. Any soil which will grow good vegetables will produce strawberries in abundance. If the plants are set out in rows so that most of the work may be performed by horse labor, very little other attention will be required. The best plan is to get the plants from the nearest strawberry grower, and if not posted, allow him to choose the varieties for you. This plan is much better than sending off to some distant nursery and paying high prices for newfangled varieties about the merits of which very little is known. The plants may be set out either in the spring, summer or fall, but in either case the land should be well prepared by previous plowing and manuring. There are both perfect and imperfect flowering varieties of strawberries—the former will bear if set alone, but the latter require some of the perfect plants near to fertilize them. The best plan is to set them in alternate rows.

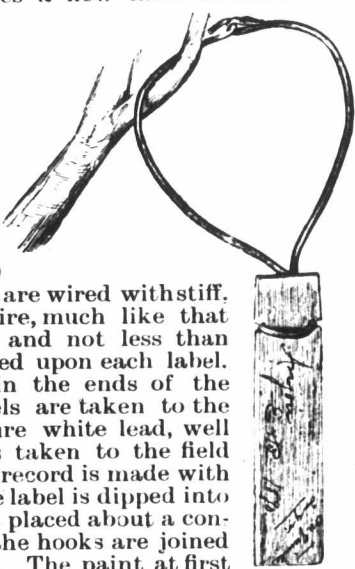
Mr. Benjamin M. Smith, after having thirty-three years experience in the cultivation of strawberries, gives his conclusions in the Rural New Yorker, as follows:—

"If set in the spring on land highly manured, thoroughly pulverized, in rows from 3½ to 4 feet apart, with plants about 12 to 15 inches in the rows, I would always plant between the rows of strawberries, dwarf peas, bush beans, lettuce, radishes or something that would not crowd the plants and which would get out of their way in good season. Let but few runners root from the plants set out; cut them off and treat them the same as weeds. Get one crop of strawberries, then plow the bed and raise a crop of celery. Grow some other crop one or two years, and then try strawberries again. There is another method I like fully as well as the one described. Give ground that has been cultivated some two years a good coat of stable manure in the spring, plant some crop that can be got off by July 15, and then apply another lot of well-rotted manure. Pulverize the soil thoroughly, and in July set out good, strong strawberry plants, if convenient, with earth attached to each, in rows 3½ feet apart, one foot apart in the rows. Let two runners root—I cut them off—keep the surface hoed as often as once in ten days. In late fall mulch with straw manure. After one crop of strawberries, cut off the tops, clean out the weeds and grass, if any; apply ground bone and ashes. Keep well hoed, mulch as before late in fall, get second crop, then plow in and grow some other crop two years; then try strawberries again."

A New Label.

Prof. L. H. Bailey, in Bulletin 61, Cornell University, thus describes a new label which he has found to be of great service in his work:

"We now label our trees with the device shown in the illustration. We buy the pine 'package label' which is used by nurserymen and which is 6 in. long and 1½ in. wide. These labels cost, painted, \$1.30 per thousand. These are wired with stiff, heavy, galvanized wire, much like that used for pail bales, and not less than eighteen inches is used upon each label. Hooks are turned in the ends of the wires before the labels are taken to the field. A pair of pure white lead, well thinned with oil, is taken to the field with the labels. The record is made with a very soft pencil, the label is dipped into the paint, the wire is placed about a conspicuous limb and the hooks are joined with a pair of pliers. The paint at first almost completely obscures the writing, but some of it drips off and the remainder dries in, so that the record becomes bright and the soft pencil marks are indelibly preserved, while the label remains white. If the paint is brushed on, the soft writing will be blurred. If in the future the wood becomes gray, the label can be brightened by immersing it in a pot of white lead, without removing it from the tree. The large loop of wire allows of the growth of the branch and the label hangs so low that it can be seen at a glance. The heavy, stiff wire insures the safety of the label against boys and workmen. It cannot be removed without a pair of pinchers. The label is large enough to allow of a complete record of the name of the variety, the place of purchase, age, and other matters, and it is readily found."



Farmer's Garden.

BY BOB BARCLAY, BALMORAL.

Strawberry Plants.—All weeds growing among these in the rows ought to be hand-pulled now, and those between the rows should be Dutch-hoed and taken off; have no digging down of weeds, which is done by many farmers and gardeners; this is a most slovenly practice, and leads to an increase rather than a decrease of the enemy. Place all runners in along each row, and fork, not dig, in (not deeply) some well-rotted short cow manure, just so as to have it slightly covered, between each of the rows: after that, keep the Dutch hoe regularly at work among them, about once in every ten days, so as to cultivate well and keep clear of weeds during the season. In most instances where plants have failed, I have found the failures to proceed from suffocation by weeds and want of cultivation.

Raspberry Bushes.—These, like the grape vine, will take all the feeding one likes to give them, so plow or dig in the richest manure you have between each of the rows, cultivate well with the cultivator or Dutch hoe during the season, keep all weeds down and remove all superfluous canes; thereby you will increase the size of the fruit and the strength of the young canes which are to bear fruit in the following season.

Gooseberry and Currant Bushes.—A great deal of the land in Manitoba is strong enough to carry this class for two or three years without the assistance of manure, but I would say to those who have light soil, fork in well-rotted short manure (new is worse than none) between the bushes, always keeping it away a little distance from the roots. I have already more than once stated my reasons for this in the columns of this journal. Now, as there are many of your readers who have an idea (and, unfortunately, too often carry it out) that if they prune and manure their bushes, that is all they require to do to secure a good crop, but they will not have, and have no right to expect, either large fruit or a large crop, unless they make good use of the cultivator or Dutch hoe frequently throughout the whole growing season.

Transplanting Onions.—Spring-sown plants should be moved out of where they were started into the border or bed (already prepared for them) about the beginning of June, as they are generally very tender, and a night's frost, if it did not kill them right out, would in most case cause them to shoot and run to seed instead of bulb. The best shaped and largest transplanted onions I have ever seen were sown in the end of July and allowed to remain in the ground over winter; they were covered over, when the frost came on in the fall, with dry litter, which kept the frost from damaging the small bulbs and roots. If raised in this way, one may transplant with safety in about a week after the litter has been removed in the spring, as the plants are then quite hardy and are just commencing to grow. Great care should be taken not to break the roots and fibres; good sized holes should be made, and some sandy loam or leaf-mould put into them along with the plant and watered well, which will induce the small fibres and roots to take a hold right away. Never put the bulb under the soil—only the roots—as the onion, like the hyacinth, may be termed a sun bulb, and grows best in every way when it is on the surface, hence the reason for sowing onion seed as shallow as possible; if the bulbs are covered they will invariably produce thick necks and nothing but grass.

APIARY.

Seasonable Questions.

BY JOHN MYERS, STRATFORD.

(Continued from Page 184.)

No. 5.—"How shall I know in the fall if there is enough honey in each hive to last the bees over winter?" If your bees are in single-walled hives, the best and surest plan is to weigh each hive until you get more experience. After a time you will be able to tell by simply lifting out the combs and looking at the honey in them. Each colony should have 25 lbs. if they are to be wintered on their summer stands, or 20 lbs. if they are to be wintered in the cellar. In weighing them you want to fill a hive with empty combs and weigh it, then allow four pounds for the bees; now weigh your colony, which should weigh 25 lbs. more than the empty hive, with the four pounds added for the bees. One good plan, and one that is quickly done, is to give each colony six sealed combs solid full from top to bottom bar.

No. 6.—"Does it make any difference if the colonies are all together, or placed some distance apart during summer?" It is very desirable, both for the convenience of the apiarist as well as the bees, that the hives be placed some distance apart. If placed too close together there will be trouble with loss of queens, caused by them entering the wrong hives when returning from their wedding trip. The bees also have trouble in finding their right hives, sometimes increasing the population of one hive and draining too many of the bees from others. The plan I like best for placing hives is to have two rows facing each other, the rows to be five feet apart and the hives to be six feet apart in the rows. By this plan you have the space between two rows for the bees to use in going out and returning to their hives, and the space between the other two rows at rear of hives for the apiarist to work in where there is few bees flying.

No. 7.—"How is honey taken from a hive?" The best method of taking honey from the hive is