

**What to Sow.**

SIR,—Would you answer the following questions in *ADVOCATE*:—I have ten acres of land ploughed last fall for the first time, though it has been cleared and free from stumps for ten years, and is covered by a pasture of natural grass. It is rich clay loam, with from three to six inches of black earth on top; it can hardly be called muck, for it is solid, having got packed by pasturing so long. I have ploughed it about seven inches deep, and turned up some of the clay with it so that in harrowing they will become mixed, but the black earth will be the prevailing soil this season until the sod rots and the clay is brought up by working. It is pretty well drained, though perfectly level, no water ever remaining on it. It seems so rich that I am at a loss what to put on it for fear of having all straw. Can you tell me what grain would be the best? I would like to put part of it in Hungarian or millet, and on part sow corn in drills for feed, if you think it would do on that land.

Where can I buy Emporium oats? What is the best kind of spring wheat for my land—rich clay loam? Is white Russian good? Will potatoes do well on muck, well drained, or on such land as I describe? Will turnips or mangolds do well on such land? What is the customary way of letting a piece of land on shares? Which is the best best Hungarian or millet; will it do to feed horses?

I. L. D., Ottawa.

[Emporium oats may be had from seedsmen. Of the cereals, rye succeeds very well. Oats do well if sown early. For best variety of wheat to sow see article "Spring Wheat," in the present issue of the *ADVOCATE*. Russian white wheat has been highly spoken of in some localities. Potatoes yield a heavy crop on such soil, if well prepared, though very subject to injury from frost. Swedes do not do so well on muck as on other soil. If well cultivated and mixed with the clay that is under the muck and manured, it should yield heavy crops of roots. It is especially well adapted for mangolds. The mode of letting land on shares is regulated by the custom of the locality, or by agreement between parties. Between Hungarian grass and millet there is little difference. Both are good forage plants. If intended for hay they should be mown while yet green. The seed is said to be injurious to horses.]

**Foreign Opinion of the "Advocate."**

SIR,—I have the pleasure to enclose you the annual subscription for two copies of your *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*. Please send one copy as usual to my address, the other to Mr. J. Freeland, Broadgate Strathblane, Glasgow, Scotland. Thus, you see, being so well satisfied myself with your most useful paper, I am desirous of granting the same information to my friend in Scotland, and shall be glad of an extra copy; and I will try for more subscribers in this district. With our free trade regime we are anxious to know what is doing across the water, that we may act accordingly to meet competition. Newspapers are the best medium, and farmers of the present day require the aid, not only of home, but foreign agricultural journals, to assist them with their business. Weather is now intensely cold here; we have one of your winters; farming prospects dull, and little prospect of an immediate revival. Markets closed in consequence of foot and mouth disease. Cattle are not allowed to leave the Metropolitan Market alive.

R. T. S., Etherley, Surrey, England.

**ALSIKE CLOVER.**

SIR,—What kind of soil is most suitable for Alsike clover? How much seed should be sown per acre?

C. T.

[Alsike clover is said to be a hybrid between red and white clover. It has the long top root of the former with the fibrous root of the latter, and the blossom is a sort of half-way between these two varieties, of a light red or pink. It does not yield so heavy a crop as the red clover, and the seed ripens earlier and with the first cutting. Bees can gather its honey, and it grows well on moist low lands, where red clover would be winter-killed, its fibrous root taking a stronger hold on the soil, and not being so easily thrown out by frost. Notwithstanding its apparent good qualities, it has failed to become popular, and is very little grown, excepting by bee-keepers for bee pasturage. [Six pounds of seed per acre is sufficient.]

**Systematic Agricultural Education**

Was discussed by Prof. S. W. Johnston, at a recent meeting of the N. Y. Farmers' Club. He said: "The farmers' present want is not so much owing to a lack of knowledge, as to a better ability to systemize. The farmer obtains his education through schools, colleges, farmers' clubs, and agricultural exhibitions, but there are grave defects in all of these or we would not be here discussing. Foreign countries in some respects are ahead of us. They excel us in methods for making farmers. We have no system that will insure to every boy who is to become a farmer a suitable education. More of the simple elements might be taught in our common schools. Children may be taught much of plants, minerals, and even chemistry, in school, without interfering with other useful studies. Under a competent teacher a child may learn more in a few weeks of the things which he sees every day than his parents can know. Our text-books are sadly at fault when they go to the ends of the earth to describe a kangaroo, while they leave the child ignorant of the domestic animals and insect enemies which are such a power for good or ill at our own doors, accordingly as we understand them. We can get much more into the school hours that will benefit the child if we set ourselves about it. If the Board of Agriculture and the Board of Education would work together in the matter they might do better work.

With these views, I quite agree something should be done in order to give our boys, who are to be the farmers of the future, a better agricultural education than they are now receiving. Many farmers' sons go to school for about eight months or less each year, many of whom are fairly advanced in English branches. The desire of their parents, as well as their own, is that they may be successful farmers. Now to be such they must know more of their business than most farmers of the present day do; especially for the benefit of these, if for no others, the elements of agriculture should be taught in our district schools. I fully agree with the Hon. Mr. Wedderburn in his remarks before the New Brunswick Board of Agriculture on this all important subject, agricultural education; also in the recommendations of the board to their government, as reported in the February number of the *ADVOCATE*. Some time ago I noticed it reported that agriculture had been introduced into the primary schools of France. I may say further, I quite agree with your editorial of some time ago, recommending tree planting and flower culture in our school grounds. As reported by you in your last issue, the Board of Agriculture of New Brunswick recommend to their government, the importation of \$12,750 worth of live stock into their province for the improvement of their native stock. Where do they intend to get these animals? Our Ontario government fell into an error when they sent to Europe for the stock which is now kept at the college farm. The animals were imported at a large cost, and were not as good as they could have bought of stock breeders in Ontario at much less cost. We instance this that the above board of agriculture may not fall into the same mistake. Our advice to them would be to buy from reliable breeders in their own Province or sister Provinces. There are many good breeders throughout the Dominion who can sell them animals just as good, and as well bred, and for much less money than they can import them from Europe, for beside saving money, the board will not run one tenth the risk of loss or danger from disease.

In justice to the breeders of their own province they should adopt this course. The breeders have already benefited the province much by their enterprise. The profits of a fine stock breeder are not large, his losses are frequently heavy, and he should be encouraged rather than have government opposition.

Lobo, Ont.

PRACTICE.

**WHEN TO TRIM GRAPE VINES.**

SIR,—Please inform me when is the proper time to trim grape vines.

L. S., Uxbridge, Ont.

[The time generally recommended for pruning or trimming grapes is from December 1st (better, still, from February) to April 13th, though grape culturists prune at different times. After your vines have grown, after transplanting one year, rub off all shoots in March or April save one. The second year cut off again all shoots save one. The third spring form a head on which all future pruning is to be performed.]

**Mode of Judging Stock.**

SIR,—I have been a subscriber for your paper nearly from its commencement, and am much pleased with its steady improvement, until it is now, as you justly say, the best agricultural paper in the Dominion, if not on the continent. We have in the *ADVOCATE*, as its name implies, a staunch friend of the farmer; let it continue in that course, till it becomes a still greater power for good in the land.

Your suggestions in last issue, anent the judging of farm stock by points, if acted upon at our fairs, would, I think, have a very beneficial effect, not only in securing the great desideratum, uniformity of type in the different classes of animals, but also a more uniform justice to exhibitors. Short-horn cattle especially seem to require such a system. From their short history as a distinct breed, there seems to be a tendency with them to develop into various types, caused, no doubt, partly by different treatment and fancy of breeders; but to other causes must we mainly attribute this defect—if we may dare to call it such. The very causes that operated in their first improvement, is their one weak point. I mean the selection and mating the best within reach without particular regard to family. We have now ample material to select from, but a breed so widely spread requires some common standard of excellence to be set up for breeders to aim at. The utmost caution should be exercised in adopting such standard—requiring the best judgment and the greatest experience available. As a breeder of Durhams in a small way, I for one would gladly see such a system adopted.

W. P., Humber, Ont.

**Amber Cane.**

SIR,—For the information of readers of the *ADVOCATE*, I wish to inform you that for the last two years I have raised Amber Cane, a variety of sorghum, and with good success. Year before last I had near one-half an acre, and had it manufactured in Clinton for one half of the produce. I got 33 gallons of syrup for my share. This season I had a little over one-quarter acre, and received about 20 gallons, of a much better quality than the year before.

I believe if the mode of managing it were understood by farmers it would be a very profitable crop. It requires about the same cultivation as Indian corn, and will come to perfection in any climate where corn will grow.

G. C., Goderich, Ont.

**Complaints Concerning the Shorthorn Herd Book.**

SIR—Can you tell me if John R. Craig is still Secretary of the Agricultural and Arts Association of Ontario? I have written to him three times—once enclosing money, and, so far, have failed to get an acknowledgment.

J. M.

Melbourne, P. Q.

Another subscriber says he sent money to pay for registering animals, but received no acknowledgment. After considerable delay he again sent money for the same purpose, inclosing more than the amount required. After waiting for a long time he received certificates of registration, but has never received the balance of money due him.

A. E.

Brucefield, P. O.

M. G., Oakville, Ont., writes:—Cannot something be done to get the Herd Book out annually. Wherever I go I hear complaints. I do not believe the breeders of thoro'breeds will stand the present system much longer.

Do you know of anyone who has second-hand copies of the Herd Books, one to four, to dispose of? Anyone having said copies, if they desire, can, no doubt, dispose of them by communicating with this office.

[Mr. Craig is still Secretary of the Agricultural and Arts Association. If you cannot get replies from him, we would advise you to write to Hon. Mr. Wood, Commissioner of Agriculture for Ontario; address, Toronto, Ontario. As he is the head of the Agricultural Department of this Province, Mr. Craig is accountable to him for any neglect of his business. These charges are of a very serious nature, and, at least, give evidence of Mr. Craig's carelessness and inattention, and certainly call for examination of the facts by his superiors. These