

Ants and Strawberries.

SIR,—I have a garden of a sandy soil, and have tried for the last two or three years to raise strawberries, but have been continually defeated by small ants that burrow under the plants, undermining them. I have tried everything that I can think of to exterminate them, but without success. Could you, or any of your subscribers, assist me by informing me of something that will kill the animals?

FARMER, Colchester.

[We have heard of their having been driven from localities by placing pieces of onions in and about their haunts. Perhaps some of our readers will reply more fully. Exposing their nests to a frost is very effective.—Ed.]

SIR,—I want to make a lawn in front of my house, which is situated on the top of a sandy hill. I do not know what to put with the soil to prevent it being burned up in the summer. I am afraid if I use swamp muck that it will be reduced to powder by the sun. Can you advise me in your next issue? I forgot to say that the lawn has to be made on a slope. A SUBSCRIBER, Lakefield.

[Add as much clay as possible. A substitute would be best. A good dressing of salt on the land before seeding would be found beneficial. Well-rotted manure and gypsum would make a good top-dressing. Superphosphate would also improve it.—Ed.]

Mules.

In reply to A. W. C., in last issue, G. Lucas, of Sarnia P. O., says he breeds mules and has three good span for sale at the present time. W. Harris, Mount Elgin P. O., says he has one span for sale. H. B. Burch, of Lambeth P. O., says he has a pair, well broken, that will weigh 2,000 pounds. A. W. C. can write to the parties for particulars.

Superphosphate.

In your March No. I noticed a letter from a Mr. Albert Abbott on "Superphosphate" and his visit to the Brockville Chemical Works. I used a small quantity of the XXX brand from the above Works last year on my turnips, and found it a great success. I would like to know which brand is best for roots, and which for grain, and how the two brands are used in Canada. I have a quantity on hand, and would like to know how to apply to the best advantage, and give it a thorough trial this spring. SUBSCRIBER.

P.S.—I am well satisfied with your paper, and I find it gives general satisfaction to those that take it in this island.

[For roots, use ammoniated XX, sowed in drills, being first mixed with double its weight of dry earth, and so scattered as not to injure the seed. For lands that need potash, which are to be sown with grain, use XXX. If satisfied that lands don't need potash, for grain, use XX. In each case, sow 500 lbs. to the acre.—Ed.]

Scab in Sheep.

Can you or any of your readers let me know a cure for scab in sheep, and insert it in your next number?

[We extract the following from the transactions of the Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland:

It is clearly ascertained by scientific men that the scab in sheep, like the itch in the human being, is connected with and propagated by certain minute insects belonging to the class of acari, which inhabit pimples or pustules. But the question naturally arises, how came it first into existence? This problem is very difficult of solution, and puzzles the most eminent physiologists. But, as I have already said, I have never known it to break out spontaneously among a flock of sheep, properly managed, during thirty years' experience as a shepherd in pastoral districts. Various and conflicting opinions exist as to what extent the disease is infectious. Some affirm that it requires sheep to come in contact with the disease before it can be communicated, while others maintain that the disease is propagated by the mere traveling on the road, such as a public drove road, from large markets or fairs. I, however, do not think the disease is so catching as the latter advocates affirm. For example, I acted as shepherd for sixteen years, on various farms, where the drove road from Falkirk to the south passes through the sheep pasture, and every year some of the lots of sheep were more or

less affected with scab, and during all that period not a single sheep of which I had charge caught the disease.

The cure of scab lies in the destruction of the insect, but the important question is, what is the best composition or infusion for that purpose? The remedies that are commonly applied are numerous, but the most effectual, with the least danger of injuring the animal, that I have ever seen applied, is the common spirits of tar; and, if properly applied, it will penetrate and destroy the insect concealed in the pustules, or buried beneath the skin. The quantity applied may vary according to the condition and age of the sheep, but for hill, or ordinary breeding stock, one bottle of spirits of tar, mixed with twelve times the quantity of water, is sufficient for twelve sheep; or one common wine-glass of the spirits of tar, mixed with twelve times the amount of water, is sufficient for one. If mixing for an hundred, six gallons of water with six pounds of common soda ought to be warmed to the boiling pitch, then add the spirits of tar.]

Sowing Grass Seed.

I have lost so much money by sowing timothy in the spring, that I do not intend to try it again. Clover seed may be sown in the spring, and harrowed in with the grain, as it will bear being covered deeper than timothy. I have found it the best way to sow timothy on the stubble directly after harvest; if the ground is not too hard, it might be harrowed first, but that is not absolutely necessary. If there should be a shower or two it will soon be up, and if the ground does not lie wet, and the snow lies well during the winter, the timothy will likely give a good crop the next season; add to which, the seed is generally cheaper in September than in April, there not being so much demand for it. I have noticed very fine timothy growing on back roads, where hay had been taken into the lumber swamps during the winter, and the seed was shaken out on the snow. The trees, which were cut out only a sufficient width to admit of the sleighs passing, would shade the road in the summer, and in that part of the country, that pest of the good farmer and the delight of the scallawag farmer—the highway cow—was unknown. SARAWAK.

Ripe Cheese.

SIR,—I was taking supper the other evening with a friend, another reader of the ADVOCATE. As we had cheese on the table, the conversation turned on the proper quality of a ripe cheese. We differed in opinion, and agreed to refer the question to you, namely, What is the proper consistency of ripe cheese? We should be pleased to have your reply in next ADVOCATE. R. A., Brucefield.

We quote the following:—

Professor Arnold gives the following characteristics of properly ripened cheese:—"Well, ripened cheese has no elasticity when pressed with the finger; it feels as if breaking under the pressure, and the dent remains; it has a salvy, oily appearance, when worked between the thumb and finger, and melts on the tongue like a ripe pear; the cut surface remains oily for a long time, not readily drying up; unripe cheese, on the contrary, is elastic when pressed, hard or tough when worked between the thumb and finger; soon dries and cracks when exposed to the air; when tasted by the tongue, is deficient and fat, and does not dissolve readily."

Mr. Arnold's work, entitled "American Dairying," contains so much useful and practical matter that every dairyman should have it. We safely and highly recommend it to you. It is worth double its cost to any dairyman, regardless of all the knowledge he may think he has.

Abolition of Spring Shows.

You are asking your readers to contribute. I like to read the communications from others that I see in your paper, and would like to help you, but I never have written for any paper before. If this is not worth printing you can destroy it.

I think the spring shows of entire horses and bulls should be abolished. There is a larger percentage of deaths of this most valuable class of stock than of our common stock; this I attribute in a great measure to the practice of preparing them for the spring show. I think the fall shows are the proper and only time they should be put in show condition.

Mr. Thomas Bell exhibited his imported draught stallion at Clinton. He was taken sick at the Exhibition, and died in a few days. This fine animal was only imported last year. He took the first prize at the Provincial Exhibition at Hamilton.

H. S. Clinton.

[This is a debatable question. It has been our opinion that the fall exhibitions of stallions are far more injurious to them than the spring exhibitions.—Ed.]

SIR,—I have seen in your paper that you lost a subscriber by inserting a letter, condemning the Red Chaff or Farrow wheat. Your condemning it was none too soon. The price of good housekeepers' flour, spring and fall mixed, is now \$4.25 per 100 lbs. here, while flour from Red Chaff wheat can be bought for \$3.50. This shows the opinion of the purchasers of flour on the value of the wheat. A READER.

London, April 23rd, 1877.

Canadian Agricultural Notes.**Prince Edward Island.**

You noticed some time ago the number of "diggers" at work on the "mussel-mud beds" over here; perhaps an extended description of the deposit, its use and manner of raising, would be acceptable.

These mussel-mud beds, so-called, consist more properly of wide and deep deposits of countless oyster shells, and are found on all the shores and in the beds of all the rivers of this island, sometimes covering nearly the whole bed of the river, and in others and on the coast, found in "beds" of from one-eighth of an acre to twelve acres, and from one to thirty feet deep.

They are deepening but slowly, if any, and do not differ much in quality, with this exception, that the shore "beds" are more exposed to a deposit of from one to three feet of "tidewash" of sand from heavy winds than the river beds, which are sometimes found perfectly clear, and, at low tide, both are generally found bare or with a very light draught of water.

The beds are free to all, and are prized very highly, the season for raising commencing the 1st of March and ceasing when the ice will no longer hold the workers. The mud is hauled as far as fifteen miles in some instances, generally in loads of 1,500 pounds each, about twenty-five of which loads are spread to the acre.

It is about 40 years since its use was first adopted, but it was in a desultory way until five years since its merits became more generally, or more favorably, known, and to-day there are probably upwards of one hundred "diggers" at work here on our different bays and rivers, working eight hours a day, raising every minute a fork-full weighing 250 pounds, for thirty-five days. Any of your readers in a moment can see the vast quantity used.

Live oysters are raked from some of the "beds," and who can think without dropping a pearly tear in memory of the billions of delicious bivalves born to live and die upon their beds of case, ignorant alike of the honored pains of their descendants and the unsatiable appetite of that unscrupulous mortal, the American of the nineteenth century, leering at their unceasing home across Northumberland Straits.

ITS USE.

The mud consists of, and consequently acts like, lime, and is put on ploughed land in the proportion mentioned, well scattered over and harrowed in. The land is stimulated and will not bear such heavy cropping as under other fertilizers; traces of it are found after a lapse of ten, twenty and thirty years, but it is usually applied about once in fifteen years. Tourists driving through the island will have noticed the peculiar dark, vivid green it imparts to grass fields; taller growth and heavier, in brilliant contrast to adjoining fields, under different treatment.

RAISING OR DIGGING.

A man and two boys repair to the scene with a horse and two box sleds loaded with an ice saw, a Y-shaped machine, to the cross-arm of which is attached an "upright" supporting a "crane," and to the tall end a "windlass," holding 75 feet of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. chain and the "fork." They cut a hole in the ice 30 feet long and 3 feet wide, and place the crocheted arms of the Y close enough to one end to allow the chain (which runs from the windlass down the main stick up the upright and through the crane) to be