

Does Farming Pay?

SIR,—May I give you a little of my experience in farming? I settled in Garafraxa 24 years ago, and bought my land on credit. All I was worth was a yoke of oxen and \$10. This settlement was then a wilderness. I made it a practice to keep out of debt, and I have never been in a pinch; if one thing missed, another paid. So I now have the deed of 600 acres of good land, and enough money out to keep me and the family. I don't say this to boast; I would like to encourage others to do likewise. I find the ADVOCATE a great help and good company. E. L. F., Cumnock.

SIR,—I see that you persist in advocating the compulsory belling of sheep as a preventative of destruction by dogs. Now, I wish to say that I dissent wholly from your plan, let the bells be put upon the dogs, then every body will know just where the dog is, and in most cases whose it is by the bell. In this neighborhood dogs are at present causing much alarm and considerable loss. On the 9th instant I was out a little late, and before I returned my nine-year-old boy had the pluck to tackle two and drive them from the premises. The sheep were at the house or damage would no doubt have been done; but on hearing the rumpus the boy sallied out, when one sheep was run into the house. The next day one dog came to grief. Again, last night, a neighbor had three sheep killed, but as it was a good morning for trailing another dog came to a like end, and now the farmers are beginning to awake to the importance of dogs vs. sheep and grange vs. dogs. There are, perhaps, to-day, not more than half the number of street curs in Blenheim there was two months ago. Please tell us how much power we have in our hand—i. e., to execute by lynch law. Some of us are very determined. E. J. Y.

[We here give you the law from our statutes. There are many by-laws in counties, townships and cities that give greater power than the statutes. We have killed numbers of dogs when on our farm which the law might not have justified us in doing, but we deemed the preservation of our stock required it. Our plan was to shoot them dead, put them out of sight, and say nothing about it.

"Any person may kill any dog which he sees pursuing, worrying or wounding any sheep or lamb."—Revised Statutes of Ontario, Cap. 194, Sec. 10.]

SIR,—I sometimes notice in your paper an occasional item on porkers. I have just killed a pig ten months old which weighed three hundred and ninety pounds dressed weight. If any of your subscribers can beat that, I would like to hear from them. W. P., East Zorra.

SIR,—I want to ask you through the ADVOCATE which is the best form to take fresh butter to market, whether in pound rolls or pound prints, and what kind of packing boxes are the best. I have seen by the ADVOCATE that some have wood and some have tin. Please tell us what kind of wood is the best and how they are made, and, if of tin, how they are made. If any of your correspondents can inform us we shall be obliged, as we are thinking of selling our butter fresh this season. I think the ADVOCATE is improving all the time and is doing a great deal of good through the country. I like Minnie May's Department well; the recipes are splendid, only I think we could do without alcohol in any shape and at all times in our cooking. I know that some think we cannot do without wine or brandy in some of our cakes and sauces, but I would rather let them go than use it in any shape. Our young people have enough temptation away from home, so we should not create an appetite for it there. Flesherton, Feb. 7th, 1878. MRS. J. B.

[It will depend entirely on how far you have to take your butter to market. If within driving distance you will require nothing but a good basket, but if shipped by rail any distance you will require a box or pail. The Americans get up what they call a "return butter pail," which is so made that the prints or rolls do not touch each other, and when empty they are returned. It is made with loose or false bottoms, so put in that they keep each layer of butter from touching the other. They are shipped by express, and when empty are returned and filled again. The butter sent in these is put up in either pound prints or rolls with a piece of nice muslin cloth around each roll or

print, with the maker's name on each, which are returned with the pails. Butter put up in this way, nicely made and nicely packed and sent to a good market, will always command a good price. When sending butter in this way you should have your regular customers, and if shipped there should be some one to receive it and see that it is properly handled.

To J. L. SANDWICH.—The Pearl Millet is advertised by W. H. Carson, 125 Chamber Street, New York.

Post Hole Auger.

SIR,—Can you tell me anything about a patent ground auger to bore post holes. By so doing you will oblige J. M., Campden P. O.

[There is a post hole borer sold in this city. The price is \$2.65. It weighs about six pounds and is worked by hand. Large numbers have been sold, and we hear that they give the best of satisfaction.]

Golden Midge-Proof.

SIR,—Will you be kind enough to inform me what is your opinion of the "Emporium," or Golden Midge-Proof wheat. Do you think it adapted to the Island soil, and does it deserve that reputation which has been given to it by travelling agents. J. McM., P. E. Island.

[The Red Fern wheat has, we believe, been sold under the name of Golden Midge-Proof.]

SIR,—Last year I purchased nine bushels of Red Fern wheat, and got 160 bushels returned eight days earlier than any wheat I know of. I also got one bushel of the Odessa. For seven or eight weeks it looked wretched, and people passing along the road said that it was a failure. In fact, my father said there was not much of it, but it was plenty, for it would be a poor crop. The result was, I had eighteen bushels for one sown, and good wheat. I got one bushel of Scotch Black Tartar Oats. They yielded twenty-eight bushels, but the sample is not as good as the original. W. W., Ilderton P. O.

Jersey Cattle.

SIR,—I wish to ask you, through the ADVOCATE, who keeps the most popular herds of Jersey cattle in Ontario, and where one would be most likely to purchase a herd of that breed. J. C., Nova Scotia.

[There are but few Jersey cattle in Ontario. There is no herd that we know of. There are a few Jerseys in the hands of a few individuals. The largest herd of them in Canada is that of Romeo H. Stephens, Slocum Lodge, St. Lamberts, Montreal, P. Q.]

[Many communications from different parts of the Dominion that we would gladly make place for were it in our power we are compelled by press of matter to hold over till our next issue.]

Cattle Breeding and Feeding.

The breeding of a better class of cattle alone will not suffice. There is also great need for improvement in the system of feeding pursued by many farmers. At present there is considerable waste of food and time, arising from a want on the part of farmers of any knowledge of the essential ingredients which the food given to cattle ought to contain, and from a want of care and attention in feeding unvaryingly and systematically. Continuous and intelligent feeding from calf hood onwards is the only means by which the greatest quantity and best quality of beef can be put on the animal, and the nearer farmers approach to this ideal the larger will be their profits, and the better they will be able to defend themselves from the invasion from America. Calves should receive a liberal supply of milk for at least five months, with cake or some equivalent added, or substituted for a portion of the milk, towards the latter end of that period; and then when they are weaned, the greatest care ought to be taken not to allow them to fall away, or to allow their constitutions to be impaired by the change of food, which for some time should be of a very nourishing kind. During the first winter they need not be fed too highly—just liberally enough to retain the calf flesh, keep the animal in a healthy growing condition, and gradually add a little beef. Then at the first of summer they ought to be kept in the house, even though a little artificial food should have to be given them, till the grass has advanced sufficiently

to maintain them in a progressive state; and in the same way at the end of the grass season, they should be housed as soon as the grass begins to fail or the cold to interfere with their feeding. The loss that farmers in this country sustain through turning their cattle too soon on to the grass in spring or beginning of summer, and leaving them too long upon it in autumn is very great indeed, and demands that strenuous efforts should be made to remedy the evil. House-feeding must be continued longer in spring even if artificial food should have to be used a little; and to tide over the interval between the grass and turnips and straw seasons, much larger quantities of tares and such crops ought to be grown, especially in Scotland, where there is less provision made for this short season of cold and hunger than in England. It sometimes takes a month of liberal house-feeding to replace what has been worn away by the half-starvation of a fortnight on the open field. Cattle would make more progress in a comfortable house, a little more than half fed, than out on an exposed field during cold weather, even if they should have all the meat they could consume. And in addition to the waste of time, labor and food, this "wearing away" process, as previously noticed in referring to the American system of feeding, has a very injurious influence on the quality of the beef, while it also, in many cases, weakens the constitution of the animal. In the majority of cases it would probably be advisable for the ordinary farmer to feed off his cattle at two years old; and in this case the feeding through the last winter, ought to be liberal and skilful. The temperature and constitutions of the animals ought to receive constant attention, and every animal ought to be fed exactly according to what its constitution can bear. They ought to be cleaned and groomed more frequently than they are in general, and so also must they be allowed longer and more regular periods of rest.

The questions of byre, box and court feeding can hardly be entered upon here; but it may be remarked that the feeding house ought to be kept clean and well ventilated, but free from draughts. For about half the winter 100 lbs. of turnips are not too much for each animal per day; but during the last two months of its feeding, it ought not to have more than 80 or 85 lbs. of turnips, and 4, 5, or 6 lbs. of artificial stuffs, each in two meals per day, according to the constitution and relative condition of the animals. A mixture of good linseed cake and grain—say oats and Indian corn, and perhaps beans or locust beans, in equal parts—forms one of the best feeding mixtures any farmer could desire. In a mixture of grain and either of many kinds of cake there is too little oily matter; but in linseed cake all that is necessary is supplied. There is little doubt that the general body of farmers with considerable advantage to themselves, might use a great deal more artificial food than they do, and thus spread their turnips over more ground, so to speak; for at present turnips are too heavy a share of the feeding allotted to them. The "soiling" system—i. e. feeding in the house during the summer on cut grass and artificial food—ought also to be pursued more largely; for where there are half-covered courts, it has been found to pay splendidly, and then summer is the season of the year during which there will be least foreign competition in the beef markets. In concluding this part of the subject, I would sum up my advice to farmers who feed and breed cattle, thus—keep few, keep good, keep well.—Cor. Scotsman.

GRAIN.—America may not long be the granary of England. Official reports state that from Upper India, wherever canals cheapen transport, wheat can be laid down in England at four shillings a bushel less than the present average cost of American grain. The quality of the wheat from the foothill country on the lowest slopes of the Himalayas is pronounced good. The Indian Government seems determined to push forward the extensive system of inland navigation already yielding results so beneficial to the farming interest. Labor is so cheap that public works cost but a fractional part of the expense in England. It looks decidedly visionary, yet it is suggested that in ten years, time India may be receiving one hundred millions a year, now paid to the United States for wheat alone. Egypt is also entering the field. The great Sudan country at the upper sources of the Nile is being tapped by cheap railways and free canals. Wheat can be supplied in unlimited quantities, two crops a year, at prices that will make great changes in the commercial channels of the world. A few years may place an immense supply in the English market.