

Feb., 1876

1876.

Letter No. 2.

ing letters from asking particulars tion with the real settlement in the sable to inform the our widely circun- or items of inter- be raised and kept an here in Mark- ything, in the first interest on capital does not cost any- those cheap lands or winter feeding, where where there ile, on the other the land is high, asive as well as the orth from four to passes to the home es and hay, oata, ere is taken up on g, which sells from ht dollars; oata, 0. The market for d from this side of nancy there yet, ately been survey- mer there, as I di', ss of the soil by old farm at Fort on Bay Company, for the last fifty r being the nearest of Prince Arthur's age of the Dawson acific Railroad, will being good and so vel thing to me in tain ash growing There is an exten- belonging to Adam procure pine lum- feet, and there has e with success. I some of your con- ability of farmers ans of new settlers ge of the high price small. The quan- is large, and it will get fairly started if Hungarian grass y loam soil, and in a his, it would be of to raise it. As the ould soon clear off a y the seed the latter p the first year. I nformation on this ny who are looking the interesting in- t. I am willing at y with any of the y subject wherein I e prospects of the e four lines of boats r, Collingwood, and e Arthur's Landing tance from Toronto 50 miles, and the either route, and m Toronto, either to Prince Arthur's as early as May to 30 November. e Arthur's Landing a summer resort. ere is pretty good, be expected in so ditor, hoping I am ace in your paper, e season, I beg to L. JONES.

of the compass re- issued in 1873, and onth—a more suit-

Lucerne or Alfalfa.

SIR,—I wish you could inform me about the Lucerne. I have seen it growing near St. Catharines; it stands our winters well. I would like to try it. Where can the seed be got, or any other information respecting it will be thankfully received.

JOHN ADAMSON.

Mount Elgin, Dec. 31, 1875.

[In a former number of the ADVOCATE we wrote pretty fully on this subject, and we give for the benefit of Mr. Adamson and other subscribers, the following from an American journal. We have no doubt it will be a valuable acquisition to our farmers, if it prove hardy enough for our Canadian winters, as we have every reason to hope it will.—ED.]

Alfalfa or Lucerne is the great forage crop of California now, but it is only a few years ago since its introduction there. The common grasses of cultivation, timothy, clover, etc., had been tried, but would not stand the long, dry summer. Public attention was attracted to the task of finding a grass suited to the peculiar soil and climate of the State. Parties began to experiment with Alfalfa, but for a long time were unsuccessful, because of ignorance of its habits and requirements—just as it has been here in the East. But they stuck to it, and as the peculiarities of the plant became better understood, it began to grow in favor, and men began to make money by growing the seed. At one time it sold at thirty cents per pound, and many made small fortunes in the business. The *Record Union*, from which we gather these facts, says, in regard to the increase of this crop:

The product of seed has been increasing from year to year, until it is probable that the product for the present season will not be less than twenty thousand tons, and the price will probably range from ten to fifteen cents a pound. Those who have saved the second cutting for seed have generally made a paying crop, but those who have cut two crops of hay before letting it go to seed have this season not been very successful, as they have not for a number of years past. Taking one year with another, the second crop is most likely to fill well and make a paying crop. Since the settlement of the State by Americans, there has not been a more important event for this material prosperity than the introduction of Chili clover as one of the products of her soil.

Because Alfalfa is so successful in our warm and dry climate, the impression has become quite prevalent that it will not do well in a colder climate where snow and freezing weather are common in the winter season. This, however, is a mistake, and every one who is familiar with the country in which it had its origin, upon a moment's reflection would see it without being so told. Alfalfa has been one of the most valuable forage plants of Switzerland since the history of that country has been known. It is known there as Lucerne, and is the grass which has rendered the Swiss dairies so famous the world over. We have frequent inquiries as to whether Alfalfa will do well in cold climates. The fact that it is a native of Switzerland should be a sufficient answer to all such inquiries.

Free Grant Lands.

SIR,—Seeing an article in your ADVOCATE on "Free Grant Lands in Thunder Bay," written by one L. Jones, who offers to give information to any one applying for the same on the subject, but who does not mention in what way, I would like, through your paper, to receive some information as to what way a person would get there, cost of travelling, and also who to apply to and where the agent lives. Information on the price of food and other necessary articles would be very acceptable.

JAMES G. RICKWOOD.

We will thank Mr. Jones to let us have his reply to these inquiries in time for our next issue.

Lameness in Pigs.

Reply to the enquiry of J. S.

SIR,—I see by the December number of the ADVOCATE that J. S. complains of his pigs becoming lame, and you are of opinion that it is caused by worms in the kidneys, of which I think there is no doubt. I have often had pigs taken the same way, and have always cured them by giving them soft soap suds to drink. A dose or two is always sufficient, if given when first taken.

T. J.

Items Suggested by the January No. of the Advocate.

SIR,—I must say I am not sorry for some of the people beginning to feel want, but I am for others. Not many months ago, some of the city artizans would turn up their noses at farmers, if asked to work on the farm at good wages—of course their families suffer now. I think farmers would help if the proper means were taken to collect and distribute.

You are right about the railways. I think Canadians should be treated as well as Americans. Government, attention!

Mr. G. Wiseman, just cut your tamarack a little before the fall of the leaf. You will find more gum in it then than any other time, and, of course, will last longer.

Any one that advocates to compel farmers to raise no grain but wheat and to reduce its price, is not safe to run loose by himself. If wheat is not cheap enough now, at 94 cents, with fifteen bushels to the acre, please warn those people to keep clear of Wentworth County.

The hog disease is very fatal—good care, warm, clean pens, and clean feed are the best preventatives.

Shorthorn conventions I look upon as a ring of moneyed men bound to make more money.

"Impoverished Soil" is a good, sensible article. It is quite possible for an animal to get so far down that it can't digest well, so with soil. It wants a new stomach put in it.

Land plaster I consider the cheapest manure we have. I say manure, not stimulant. Sow that early in the spring, that it will be thoroughly dissolved, or else it will not do any good—it takes 20 lbs. of water to dissolve 1 lb. of plaster.

I wonder if Government did not pay something for that Canada thistle. I can give a remedy to kill Canada thistles, and I believe I am the only one: Do not plow till they have made their growth—about the last of June or the beginning of July; if the ground is very dry, all the better. Plow and harrow and cultivate three or four times before the 1st of September; manure the land; sow fall wheat thick with clover; cut your clover a little early; mow your clover two years; if not not killed they will be sick; then repeat the dose. Nothing but work and attention is needed.

IS DRAINAGE NEEDED.—Joseph Harris, on "Walks and Talks," says: Dig a hole 3 feet deep, and if any water gathers in it in two weeks it needs draining. I believe he is correct, and does the work thoroughly.

HORSES.—I will take part with you, Mr. Editor, in that our horses are like the Turkish cavalry, too little and too long, as the Enniskillen dragoon said at the time of the Crimean war: "I could ride through six deep of them like sticks."

The elk is like his Indian friend, dying slowly but surely.

Sheep raising is not looked at in its true light by farmers—cows seem to be the rage. The first thing we know, sheep are going to be high.

Uncle Tom's and Minnie May's Department are full of good things, and ho! for the Grangers.

I would rather have the fourth of the price of stock sales than the whole scrape of them.

HORACE.

[We hope to have the pleasure of receiving criticisms from "Horace" frequently. It is unnecessary for us to review the reviewer.

Clover.

SIR,—The subject of clover, or the question in one of your numbers on *Trifolium*, is one I wish to say a little about. The plant *Trifolium*, or, botanical name, *Trifolium incarnatum*, is quite a distinct variety from the common red clover, so widely cultivated in this as well as other countries. It is quite unnecessary to describe or say anything of the red clover, it is so well known and appreciated. But the other being quite distinct in its habit, and also in its shape of flowers, &c., I will give you a slight sketch of it, and what I knew of it in Old England. First, then, it grows about 2½ or 3 feet high; the leaf just such as the common clover, but the flower is something like a sugar loaf, being quite conical, and the same as the common clover in color. It was usually sown in the latter part of August or beginning of September, on stubbleland that was well manured before that crop was sown and clean; the land was not deeply ploughed, but merely run over each way with the two-horse

grubber, so as to get soil enough to bury the seed. It was always thought to like a firm bed, for we used to roll down with heavy roller after sowing. Its seed is very different from ordinary clover; it is entirely yellow in color, and in size very much larger than the kind we usually sow in this country. As a yielder it is very good, and is in general use as a forage plant for horses. As green food, it is excellent, so even in the shape of hay it is eagerly sought after by all herbaceous animals. It is also used for sheep to be folded on it, and is considered to bring on ewes and lambs quickly. I do not know anything of it as far as Canada is concerned, but if any one wishes for the seed I shall be able to supply them if they communicate in time with me; but not for sowing this next spring, but in time for autumn next. I have imported the seed before now, but have never seen the plant in this country, as all the seed was lost by fire. If it will stand the winter, I must say it would be a very great benefit to the farmers of Canada generally.

Yours, &c.,

D. MESSENGER.

[We thank Mr. M. for his communication. He is right in his observation that we desire and solicit correspondence from our subscribers on anything pertaining to the subject of agriculture, especially in reply to questions asked by correspondents. We hope he will often favor us with his communications.]

Farmers as Contributors to the "Advocate."

Mr. Alvin W., Simcoe, says:—"I am now taking six papers and magazines and cannot give up any of them. Could you not persuade us farmers that are not capable of writing scientifically on agriculture, just to give some account of our practice in a plain, simple way, so that the readers would get the ideas and never mind the language used." Well, Mr. W., we would just say in reply, your suggestion is a good one. We have long been persuading you farmers to do as you say, and though we have had such plain statements of facts as you desire, we are anxious to have more contributors, and your idea pleases us so much that we hope to have you among the number.

Boring Machine for Sale.

SIR,—I notice in the January, 1876, number a boring machine wanted, for boring fence caps and tiles. By applying to David Bell, Caledore P. O., they will find what they want.

Yours truly,

WM. PEARSON.

Canada Thistles.

SIR,—I am glad to see the interest you take in the Canada thistles. If there could be a general law, so every township council would be obliged to appoint one or two persons in every township to prosecute every person that don't keep his thistles from growing to seed. In Beverly Township they have had it so for four years, and it works well. Last year they tried it in Brantford Township, where they fined some of the wealthiest men. The present system of having pathmasters won't do; it just makes a neighborhood broil.

As for registering letters, the present system looks curious to me. If a letter is registered to you in a distant town, how are you to become aware of the time it will reach you?

DAVID PHILPS, Sr., Boston P. O.

[Mr. P. sees that we publish another contribution of Canada thistles as well as this. It is well that the owners and tillers of the soil, in many parts of the country, see the necessity of exterminating weeds, root and branch. Let us persevere till the plants beneficial to us shall have entire possession of the soil.

Berkshire Pigs.

SIR,—I keep the large English Berkshire Pigs. Do you know where I could find some pure large Berkshires, for a cross with mine.

Yours ever,

GEO. BAKER,

Simcoe P. O., Ont.

[Perhaps some of our readers will kindly furnish Mr. Baker with the information.]