

Miscellaneous.

CRIMSON CLOVER—MAMMOTH CLOVER—SWAMP HAY.

A. MANSON, Lanark Co., Ont.:—“(1) Would crimson clover be a profitable crop to sow on sandy soil in spring to be cut for hay in same year? (2) Is Mammoth clover more productive and equally as good in other respects as common red clover? (3) Does millet draw as much strength from the soil as oats or peas? (4) Could you produce figures to show the relative fat-producing qualities of millet, clover, peas, and oats, all cut green and fed in the usual form as hay? (5) I also send you a sample of two kinds of swamp hay which I would like to know the names of. Which of these would be the most profitable hay crop to raise? Could the seed be procured from a seed merchant?”

(1) Crimson clover is an annual. It is usually sown in August alone and is fit to cut the next year early in June or plowed in for green manure. If sown early in spring alone on rich and well-prepared land we see no reason why it should not grow high enough to cut for hay in the same year, but we have had no experience. A sandy loam soil is best suited for it. In the FARMER'S ADVOCATE of August 1st, 1896, a subscriber in Essex Co. gave a very favorable account of his experience with crimson clover, which he sowed at the rate of fifteen pounds per acre on black sandy land, Sept. 1st. It was in full bloom by May 8th, standing two feet high, was ripe for seed June 12th, and estimated at eight to ten bushels per acre. This is the most favorable report of it we have seen in this country, many having tried it with unsatisfactory results.

(2) Mammoth clover is considered more productive than red, but is coarser and does not make as good fodder on this account. If sown very thickly this objection may be obviated to some extent. It is said to be very suitable for plowing in as green manure.

(3) If all are allowed to ripen seed there is little difference, but peas, being a nitrogen gatherer, will leave the soil richer for succeeding crops than the others.

(4) The analysis of these green fodders shows the relative fat constituents in this order: Millet, 1.1; clover, 0.70; peas, 0.60; oats, 0.55; and the total constituents as respectively: 55.24, 47.18, 37.0, and 34.73.

(5) No. 1 is reed canary grass or ribbon grass (Phalaris arundinacea), suitable only for pasture on wet, swampy land. In early growth it is eagerly eaten by stock, but becomes woody when mature. One of our staff reports it growing this season luxuriantly along flats by creeks on farms in Middlesex (Ont.) County. No. 2 is blue joint, small reed or sand grass (Deucia Canadensis), a valuable grass for low, undrained lands, and will grow on land too wet for red-top. Commonly found in marshes or beaver meadows, but may be grown on cultivated land. It remains green even after the seeds are ripe, and is relished by stock at all stages of growth, affording nutritious pasturage and fairly heavy and palatable hay. We are not aware that seed of either of the above grasses can be obtained from dealers.]

COW HARD TO MILK.

F. M., Frontenac Co., Ont.:—“Is there any way in successful use to cause a cow that is hard to milk to give a larger stream, or to enlarge the passage. Is this difficulty inherent in any breed?”

[We do not know that this difficulty is prevalent in any one breed more than others. It can only be remedied by mechanical means. A piece of whalebone may be filed into a proper shape, as shown in the accompanying illustration, both to enlarge the duct and to be retained in its place, without danger at the same time of penetrating too far so that it cannot be withdrawn. Whalebone is to be preferred because it is hard, smooth, elastic, and cannot be broken. It should be well oiled before it is inserted into the teat.]

HORTICULTURAL PERIODICAL.

H. O. LAMB, Ohio:—“Is there any Canadian publication devoted to horticulture and general gardening in Canada; also state price?”

[The Canadian Horticulturist, published at Grimsby, Ont. Editor, Mr. L. Woolverton. Price, \$1 per year.]

BINDWEED.

ENOCH M. WEBER, Waterloo Co., Ont.:—“You will find enclosed a sample of a weed that threatens to make considerable trouble. It was first noticed last summer on both my farm and my neighbor's. It grows in the shape of a vine, coiling itself around grain stalks, etc. It does not grow very early, but when it comes no other vegetable matter seems to bother or hinder its progress. The blossom is somewhat similar to morning glory, only much smaller, and the soil is filled with a complete network of roots. The leaves are of a dark green, pretty fine. My neighbor put three bushels of salt on a patch of about eight or ten feet diameter, which resulted in killing everything except this weed, which again made its appearance. I have made no investigation in regard to the depth of the root. It kills the grain by spinning around the stalks, thus binding them dead. After plowing,

the surface is again nearly covered with its vines in about a week. Please give information how to act, and what is its name?”

[The specimen sent us is Convolvulus arvensis, or bindweed, sometimes called wild morning glory, a perennial from Europe, common in North Atlantic States and Canada. It increases rapidly from rhizome, an underground root or stem, each small broken particle of which is good for a new plant. It is a great pest, and once well-established exceedingly difficult to eradicate. Its seeds are distributed in grain, and also by being carried from place to place in water, so that it is often found thick in bottom lands. It is also distributed in manure. If it infests grain fields, drop grain out of the rotation till they have been subjected to a thorough cleaning process. After harvest, plow shallow and cultivate and continue autumn cultivation till growth is past, but plow deep at last. In spring keep the surface stirred, and put in a hoed crop, such as roots or corn. Persistent and careful work will be needed to get rid of it in one season, and it may take two. It is said that, where practicable, sheep will greatly check its growth, but for this we cannot vouch. However, we have seen it successfully dealt with (barring a few left about the fences) the last two seasons on the farm of one of our contributors by the plan above suggested.]

TOP-DRESSING GRASS WITH HORSE MANURE.

IGNORAMUS, Vancouver, B. C.:—“I should like to know whether there is any danger in applying new horse manure to grass land from now on? This manure is from very highly-fed horses, and I want to spread it to prevent it burning in pile. Have not time to turn it and mix it, as I have manure from twelve horses to handle, and only one help. I want to take it right out directly hay is off. Have been told it will burn up the grass. Please reply through your paper.”

[There is no danger in such application of horse manure in reasonable quantity, and the effect upon the grass is certain to be good. Spread the manure well and evenly, and not at a heavier rate than 10 to 12 tons per acre, and it will be all right.]

SHOWS AND SHOWING.

Hints from the Highland Show.

A feature of the proceedings at the late Highland and Agricultural Society's Show at Glasgow, and which has been observed at each of the annual shows of the Society since 1892, was a Sabbath service on the show ground for the herdsmen and attendants, conducted by the Chaplain of the Society, Rev. Archibald Scott, D. D., of Edinburgh. There was a large attendance, the directors, the showyard committee, and the officials being represented, as well as the stockmen and caretakers. A concert for the entertainment of the exhibitors and attendants was also given on the grounds on the Tuesday evening of the second week, which was greatly appreciated.

Summer and Autumn Exhibitions.

Table listing various exhibitions with dates and locations. Includes entries for Brandon, Virde, Fort Qu'Appelle, Stanstead, Montreal, Syracuse, Sherbrooke, Toronto, Columbus, Ohio, Three Rivers, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Williamsstown, Perth, Des Moines, Iowa, London, Richmond, Yankleek Hill, Belleville, St. John, Guelph, Renfrew, Bowmanville, Ottawa, Peterborough, Gederich, Charlottetown, P. E. I., Collingwood, Prescott, Stratford, Kemptville, Whitby, Almonte, Springfield, Ill., Halifax, N. S., Maxwell, Ont., Kildonan and St. Paul, Birtle, Beachburg, St. Louis, Mo., Wapella, Man., Russell, Man., New Westminster, B. C., Markham, Melita, Man., Chicago Fat Stock and Horse Show, New York Horse Show, Ontario Fat Stock Show, Brantford.

Surpassing all Past Exhibitions.

“Peace hath her victories No less renown'd than war.”

sings Milton in his sonnets. An annual victory in this sense is Toronto's exhibition, this year appropriately termed Canada's Great Victorian Era Exposition and Industrial Fair. So successful is it each year, so typical of the growth and development of the country, so attractive in all its many features and branches, that it always appears as if in the succeeding year it would be impossible to outstrip the past. Yet every year is this accomplished. Every year are new and surprising features presented. Every year is the stranger from afar, as well as the native at home, delighted with an opportunity to see on one ground at a minimum of cost the wonders not alone of this glorious country, but of the world. To say that the exhibition of 1897, the most memorable year in the history of the British Empire, will eclipse in power of attractiveness the eighteen other annual exhibitions that have gone before seems like trying to realize in advance on an unfulfilled prophecy. But we do venture to say that the great Victorian Era Exposition and Industrial Fair to be held at Toronto from August 30th to September 11th next will put in the shade all that have passed. We say this because in the first instance the directors have ever shown themselves to be not only abreast but ahead of the times. We say this because we are advised that the application for space and the notification of entries already received are ahead in number of any other year. We say this because the awards to be made have been greatly increased. We say this because considerable improvements have been made to the buildings and to the grounds themselves. We say this because the management have contracted for the production of the greatest outdoor spectacle that has ever been attempted in this or in any other city outside the great capital of Europe. Visitors to London of every race and nation unite in declaring that the Diamond Jubilee procession was the most gorgeous, most brilliant, most vari-colored demonstration ever held. It must therefore lend itself to reproduction. Of course all the mighty personages who paid tribute to the Queen will not be in Toronto, but facsimiles of their costumes will be, with all the fanfare of the pomp of peace and the glittering trappings of war. There will be many hundred marching soldiers, there will be flags, flowers, banners and bunting galore, there will be the joyful sounds of music, and, best of all, there will be reproduced actual scenes on a most realistic scale of the ceremonies at Buckingham Palace, along the line of march, at St. Paul's Cathedral, and at the Mansion House. It will be a panoramic pageant of unsurpassed beauty and magnitude. At night the effect of this great feature will be heightened by illumination and fireworks, the set-pieces of pyrotechnics showing the illuminations as they appeared on the night of never-to-be-forgotten June 22nd on the prominent buildings in London. One of the handsomest pieces will be the Queen's gracious and touching message to the people of Canada: “From my heart I thank my beloved people. May God bless them.”

But amid all this promise of excellence in entertainment sight must not be lost of the more material features of the Fair, nor of the fact that entries for live stock and all classes of manufacture close on Saturday, August 7th; of grain, field roots, and horticultural products, Saturday, August 14th; of poultry, Saturday, August 21st; and of dogs, on Thursday, August 26th, with manager Hill at 82 King St. east, Toronto.

Canada Central Fair, Ottawa.

The officers and directors of the Ottawa show to be held September 17th to 25th are leaving nothing undone that can be done to make their fair a success. They have been steadily winning favor with the people in the last few years, and stockmen agree that they are treated as well at Ottawa as any place they go. Secretary McMahon is level-headed, clever and kind. The superintendents are courteous and obliging. The directors take a live interest in all the exhibits and in the comfort of the exhibitors as well as of their stock. The grounds are clean and dry, the buildings for stock are now among the most complete, comfortable and convenient in the Dominion, and the grounds are easily accessible both for stock and visitors. The cheap excursion rates from Toronto make this a very favorable opportunity to visit the capital, and a sight of the public buildings and the view from Parliament Hill, which is one of the finest in the Dominion, will well repay the expense of the trip. The prize list this year is the best they have ever offered, and includes over 30 gold medals given as specials by citizens of Ottawa.

Attendance at the English Royal.

The aggregate attendance at the Manchester Show has been greater than any before recorded at any of the shows held by the Society. As the numbers who visited the show held in Manchester in 1869 were larger than at any show held up to 1896, it will be seen that the city has beaten its own record. On Tuesday up to five o'clock 22,036 persons paid for admission. Soon afterwards a heavy storm of rain broke directly over the ground, and at the close of the show the total recorded as having paid for admission was 22,621. That number brings up the total of persons who paid for admission to the remarkable figure of 217,980. The previous highest total was reached at Manchester in 1869, namely, 189,002. The attendance at the show which ended on Tuesday was therefore 28,978 higher than the previous highest total. At Leicester in 1896 the total was 146,277, or 71,703 below the total this year. Appended is a list of the number of persons who paid for admission at different times of the day at the shows held since 1892, with the figures also of similar attendances for the Manchester Show held in 1869. It will be observed that they include separate admissions to the implement yard up to this year. This