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Farming for Profit.

SIR,—Experience shows us that the best and surest way to make money from farming is by selling the products of the farms in fattened meat, yet more is required than fat meat. Neither the farmer nor any other man can live by that exclusively. He must have wheat, and for this purpose he must make manure to renovate the worn-out land and restore its fertility, and this can be best obtained by raising turnips for stall-feeding. As manure depends for its efficacy on the rich feed of the cattle, turnip-feeding is the necessity of the farm. Every one knows that raw or green manure does not possess the requisite constituents for a rich fertilizer without fermentation, and to obtain this it is necessary to turn the manure heap as soon as the frost leaves. Our farmers are now turning their attention to raising their potato crops on sod in order to save the manure for the turnip crops. The most obstructive difficulty in turnip-raising is the fly, and this can be greatly remedied by sowing guano or superphosphate, well pulverized, along with the seed, which stimulates its germination and growth, so that the plant is soon too strong for the attacks of its enemy. Turnip-sowing is quite a new art in agriculture. It was not till about the year of the battle of Waterloo that Calcy first sowed turnip seed in drills on the banks of the Tweed, on the border of Scotland. It was said at the time that he was too fast. P. F. Sussex Vale, N. B., July 19, 1879.

Coal Tar for Squashes.

SIR,—I have a promising crop of winter squash that I prize very highly, but the squash bug and borer are making sad havoc with them. Will you be kind enough to aid me by giving in your next issue some remedy. A. E., Blenheim, Ont.

[There are several preparations that will prevent and also kill the borer, the deadliest of all enemies to the squash plant, such as strong saltpetre and alkaline water, but they must be renewed often, as showers wash the salts into the ground. The most effectual remedy that we have had anything to do with is coal tar, a pint to four gallons of water, warmed in the sun to make the tar dissolve freely. In the application, hollow out the dirt for the space of two or three inches around the base of the stalk, and with a wisp of straw tied to a stick to form a brush, apply the tar water freely along the stalk for several inches, taking pains to stir the tar well into the water, so as to form a thin film of tar about the stalks. When the plants have all been treated, the dirt can be replaced as if nothing had happened, leaving a very unpleasant bed for the reception of the fly to deposit her eggs for her next generation. The tar will not injure the plants in the least, and one application answers for the season, saving much time and money.]

SIR,—Is there no effectual means of preserving our iron implements, such as plows and harrows, from being eaten away by rust? If you know of any, be kind enough to give the needed remedy in the ADVOCATE. A. B., Parkdale, Ont.

[The Journal of Chemistry gives the following remedy: Take any quantity of good lard, and to about every pound add of common resin an amount about equal to half the size of an egg (a little more or less of either article is of no consequence). Melt them slowly together, stirring as they cool. Apply this with a cloth or otherwise, just enough to give a thin coating to the metal surface to be protected. It can be wiped off nearly clean from surfaces where it will be undesirable, as in the case of knives and forks. The resin prevents rancidity, and the mixture prevents the ready access of air and moisture.]

Paint for Farm Buildings.

An old subscriber, Wardsville P. O., sends for the benefit of our other subscribers the following recipe for paint for farm buildings:

The following is a very cheap and excellent paint for farm buildings, forming a hard surface, and as its hardness increases by time, it is far more durable than paint.

Take freshly burned unslaked lime and reduce it to powder. To one peck or one bushel of this add the same quantity of fine white sand, or fine coal ashes, and twice as much fresh wood ashes, all these being sifted through a fine sieve. They should then be thoroughly mixed together while dry. Afterward mix them with as much common linseed oil as will make the whole thin enough to work freely with a painter's brush.

This will make a paint of light gray stone color, nearly white.

To make it fawn or drab, add yellow ochre and Indian red; if drab is desired add burnt umber, Indian red and a little black; if dark stone color, add lampblack; or if brown stone, then add Spanish brown. All these colors should of course be first mixed in oil and then added.

This paint is very much cheaper than common oil paint. It is equally well suited to wood, brick or stone.

It is better to apply it in two coats, the first thin, the second thick.

Petroleum as a Wood Preserver.

SIR,—Can you inform me of the value of petroleum for preserving wood-work, such as fences, barns and gates. YOUNG FARMER, Wyoming, Ont.

[W. J. F., of New York, in a communication to the Tribune, writes as follows: "It is strange that the value of petroleum as a preservative of wood is so little understood or realized. It is well known that in time it will leak out of the best wooden barrel, and that it will penetrate where water would not, and also that where it has penetrated water cannot come. It is not a paint, and it is useless to mix it with any pigment whatever, as it cannot be made to dry and harden on the surface. Four years ago I applied it as a priming to the siding of our house, which was badly weather-beaten, with paint flaking off, as is so often seen. I put on all that the siding would absorb, then left it to the action of the air and the hot sun for about six weeks. I then covered it with two coats of white lead and linseed oil, and it has stood beautifully. I also applied it to a line of rough picket-fence, afterward covering with mineral paint, as easily as if the boards had been planed. The wood-work of all my farm tools is kept full of it, and in drawing manure, when the liquids find their way into every crevice and joint of a wagon, I find it pays to be beforehand with a pint or two of petroleum. Finding my machine oil gone last summer in the hurry of harvest, I thought of the pail of petroleum, and pouring off the top, found at the bottom just what was wanted. In numberless ways has its value been proved to me, and a barrel of light petroleum is one of the things that I should not know how to do without."]

SIR,—By this mail I send you a small box containing some entomological specimens. Please let me know the names, scientific and English, in the next issue of the ADVOCATE, and oblige.

C. J., Presquille P. O.

[Of the two specimens received one is the Cecropia Moth, an insect not at all injurious to agriculturists or horticulturists; and the other is the Canadian Buprestida, one of a family of which representatives are found in Europe and Asia as well as America. It is in the larva state that this insect is most injurious, when burrowing in the soft sapwood beneath the bark. When in great numbers, as is frequently the case, they kill many young trees by completely girdling them. Many remedies have been proposed for the protection of trees from their ravages, but the surest mode is handpicking. Steps should also be taken to prevent them from depositing their eggs upon the bark of trees. In order to protect the trees against these insects common soap is about the best remedy that can be applied, and no insects will lay their eggs upon trees treated with it. To use it, boil up as much as required to the consistency of a thick wash, and then with a broom brush over the trunks of the trees. This should be done three or four times during the summer.]

Bees and Grapes.

SIR,—I notice in the June number of the ADVOCATE that you ask for information regarding bees, as to whether they are injurious to grapes. The question as to whether the honey bee is an enemy to fruit of any kind, is no longer a debatable one in England, or in the vine-growing sections of Germany or France; nor in Italy, that land of flowers, where fruit and bees obtain perfection in close contiguity. We might point to California, whose apiaries astonish the world with their enormous productions, while her orchards and vineyards are laden with fruits in richness and delicacy the most favored part of the world cannot excel, as nearer evidence of the benefit and not the injury bees do fruit. Michigan, next to California in her honey-producing resources, as well as in the abundance and perfection of her fruit, has also only words of encouragement to the apiarist and none of censure to the bee. In all my experience as an apiarist, I have never found bees injuring fruit of any kind. I have seen them gathering the juice from grapes that had been injured, but they were doing no injury to the fruit; they will never molest sound fruit.

C. F. D., Nile, Ont.

SIR,—As present appearances indicate a showery season, I would strongly recommend any farmer who may have a lot of last year's straw on hand, to utilize it by mixing with the hay, especially if it is clover hay. Place a layer of straw on the floor of the bay, then a layer of hay, salted at the rate of from one to two gallons of salt to the ton of hay; and so on till the bay is filled or till the hay is all brought in. The advantage of this way of curing hay is that it saves time, as the clover needs much less drying, the dry straw absorbing the moisture of the hay; and when it is wanted to be fed to stock, it should be cut down with a hay-knife and mixed together on the barn floor. By this means the straw is as good as the hay, and the cattle thrive as well as if they had hay alone. It would be still better, if the bay is a large one, if an empty barrel or two were set on end on the floor, and as the hay and straw are filled up about them, draw up the barrels until the hay is all in, when they should be taken out. This would leave a kind of flue for the escape of warm air, and prevent the hay from overheating. It will not do to mix straw with hay if intended for market, although even then the barrels might be used.

I think if any farmer who has no shade provided for his cows could see my cows standing quietly under the shade of some trees near the house to be milked, on these warm mornings with the thermometer up in the 70's, he would, if he had any real regard for his animals, soon provide some kind of a shade for them. If he has no driving shed, they might be driven into the stable to be milked. Of course I take it for granted that his cows have plenty of grass, without being reduced to the necessity of picking up a living on the road allowances, as is sometimes the case with many grubbing farmers, who prefer to lend their money at from 10 to 25 per cent. interest rather than expend it in improving their farms, keeping better stock and providing better accommodation for them.

The fall wheat on the Indian Peninsula is heading out well. The heads are plump and well filled, especially the Clawson wheat, which is about a week in advance of the Treadwell, and if the weather continues dry and warm will be ready for the reaper in a week or ten days. It is often recommended to cut wheat eight days before it is ripe, as it saves shelling out, and the wheat gives less bran and more flour than if it is allowed to become fully ripe; but such flour is deficient in gluten, and will not rise so well in baking.

Spring wheat was sown late in some places, and is consequently rather backward. In other places where it was sown earlier it headed out about the 1st inst., and is now in bloom; and if the weather continues favorable for a week or two longer, will also fill out well, although, taken as a whole, I doubt whether it will prove an average crop.

Barley looks well; so do oats and peas, although the straw is rather short. Still with hay a full average, the cattle are not, on the whole, likely to suffer from want of forage next winter. There are generally some shiftless farmers who are careless about their fodder, and either from necessity or miscalculation of the quantity they have on hand, sell too much hay in the early part of the winter, and have to buy again in the spring. In some cases trying to winter too much stock may have something to do with it.

July 17th, 1879.

SARAWAK.