

June, 1874.

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

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aerated and then cooled down to about 70° before it starts for the factory. If the cans be set in a tub of cold water and placed in a sweet atmosphere, the milk may be aerated by dipping and letting it fall back in the can. There is a cheap apparatus for forcing air through the milk and it is very serviceable, greatly improving the character of the milk and enabling it to be kept sound much longer, than when no aeration is had.

The Bussey aerator and cooler is a simple, cheap, and good device for the purpose. It consists in a strainer pail raised about two feet above the common carrying can, and a tin reservoir for water or ice placed in the can when it floats on the milk. The milk when drawn from the can is emptied into the strainer pail, from whence it falls in a spray upon the reservoir in the can, and thus is both aerated and cooled.

The aeration of milk as soon as drawn, in order to free it from animal odor, is of great benefit to its keeping qualities. A much finer flavored cheese is made from such milk than from milk not so treated, and it is a point which Canadian dairymen should fully understand in their efforts to make a superior product.

We urge, therefore these hints on the dairy readers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, as among the first principles for producing good butter and cheese, and if they are followed, improvement in the dairy goods of Canada will most surely result.

Correspondence.

Who sent registered letter from Fenelon Falls, April 7th?

SIR,—Please continue sending the ADVOCATE. I have taken it a year, and I would not be without it for twice the cost of it, for we think we could not do without it.

HOW TO RAISE A GOOD FARMER'S TEAM.

Get a good span of mares of medium size, as near the temper of each other as possible, for disposition is a great thing in a horse. This done, select a horse of the middle size that is compact and a good feeder, and ever ready to drink, for these are two great points. This done, feed well the first winter—a good, warm stable and yard—fine days for exercise. I have a pair that I have raised this way, and they are just what every farmer wants. I find that three quarts of oats and all the good clover hay they will eat will bring them out just right—that is, three quarts a piece, with plenty of good, clean water.

This is from a farmer; publish, if it is worth it. CHAS. SCOTT.

Wainfleet, April 3, 1874.

POTATO BUG PICKER.

SIR,—Could you, in the next number of the ADVOCATE, give us farmers any information as to whether there is such a machine made as a Potato Bug Picker or Catcher, and if so, where made, and the cost, and if they work well?

MALCOLM McDONALD.

Lucknow, April, 1874.

[We have seen two machines for the above named purpose, but do not know whether they are giving satisfaction or not, as we have not tried either of them, nor have seen any one who has. Cannot tell if they are efficient or not. We should be pleased to hear from any one of our subscribers who has used one.—Ed. F. A.]

NON-PRODUCERS.

SIR,—In the April number of your valuable paper you asked for opinions on non-producers:—

They are non-producers because they take no part in the industries of the country, but make their living simply by standing between the manufacturer and the purchaser; taking a share of the money paid without enhancing the value of the article. This is not the worst or only grievance of which we complain—if they receive an agency, no matter whether the article is good for anything or not, they travel about the country, recommending the article to everybody, and coaxing them to buy. They will talk and blow for hours on its merits, even when they must know it is good for nothing; and by their continual talking, boasting and teasing, men are often deceived, and will buy articles they know nothing about; when, if left to use his own judgment and discretion, he never would have bought it; but he has been deceived by listening to the wonderful tales of the agent. But a great many manufacturers will sell only through these agents. This, I maintain, is unjust, because

a man is forced to give these agents a heavy percentage, when he could easily dispense with his services. You will see by this system we are compelled to sustain these men, if we want machines.

But the times are changing. Granges are being organized through the country. Meeting at these, men can consult one another, and get honest and unbiased opinions on the different kinds of machinery, and find out where and by whom they are made. In this way they will be able to get the best articles every time, without being pestered with the agent's long stories. The manufacturers of good articles will find it to their interest to sell direct to the real purchaser; and throw of the agents' fees, which will make their machines much cheaper. It will be a benefit to themselves, and at the same time rid the country of a great nuisance. If these agents will cease their wanderings, turn to farming, and become producers, instead of non-producers or teasers, it would be a great benefit to the country.

Hoping the farmers of Canada will arouse themselves, and consult one another, to find out the best kinds of implements, and the best way of buying them, without supporting a lot of agents, I remain, yours,

J. C. W.

St. Vincent, April 17, 1874.

LEACHED ASHES.

SIR,—I see a statement in your last issue on leached ashes on land, and I must say that my experience has been very different. I have used them for a long time, and there are some kinds of soil that they do not do much good on, such as stiff clay. The kind I have used them on is a clay loam. Last year I put my potatoes on a piece of sod, and on part I spread leached ashes, and on part I put none. The part that I put ashes on had more than double the quantity of potatoes than where there were none. I positively believe that ashes are the very best manure that can be used on potatoes on any land, more particularly so on soil. You will observe that I spread the ashes on first, then I plough the potatoes in, putting sets in every three furrows; of course the ashes turned on to the sets. T. M. S.

Turnberry, April 27, 1874.

LAMPAS AND WOLF'S TEETH IN HORSES AND WORMS IN SWINE.

SIR,—I see a remark about lampas in horses which I think is an error. I have raised, trained and cared for horses for over twenty years; have owned horses of all ages, and know that if the lampas are not properly burned out they will stay with some horses until worn out with age. I have had horses at the age of nineteen so poor that they were not fit for work, and by burning the lampas well down, on the same feed, care and work, they became fat and able, which proves to me they are a nuisance.

Wolf's teeth are a nuisance. They blind some horses that have them large; others may keep them long and not show it. Much the better way is to take them out; that leaves it all right.

I have tried hog raising for twenty years, and have found for worms in hogs that a soft soap dose of from four quarts down, according to size. This will cure worms, with salt for physic after the soap.

S. L. McCUBBIN.

Burford, May 11, 1874.

[We thank all correspondents for giving their opinions, although we may not always agree with them. We think 4 quarts a rather heavy dose.—Ed. F. A.]

A. W. Smith, of Pontiac Co., P. Q., says grapes do better with him than apples. He grows the Concord and Delaware. He speaks highly of the Probestier oats.

COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

SIR,—In order to show you no necessity of our taking some steps to protect ourselves from agents and commission men, I will relate one of my experiences with them. I raise hops, and have at times been compelled to use commission men to make sales for me. In 1865 I sent down some hops to Toronto, and went there to sell them; but they were delayed so upon the railways, that I could not await their arrival; I therefore gave the matter into the charge of a commission merchant, requesting him to sell them for me. In about six weeks he sent me notice that he had offers of 20 or 21 cents for them, and asked me to telegraph if I would sell. I wrote to him, saying not

to sell under 25 cents, anyway, as he had led me to believe, when in Toronto, that they would bring 40 cents. He wrote back in a few days, saying that he could give me 25 cents, as he might be able to sell them out in small lots. The next year I was in Toronto, and by accident I met one of the parties who purchased my hops from the commission man, and found out that he had sold my hops before he had written to me, for 37½ cents. Of this knavery I could not convince him for six years, as the evidence I needed was his own clerk, and I was afraid to note it; but six years afterwards the clerk was out of his employment, and wrote to me, stating that he was willing to give evidence. I entered the case into Chancery, and recovered \$340. By means of the granges which are being organized, I hope that all danger of such robberies may be done away with, and we may dispense with some of their middlemen. ANGUS SHAW.

E. R., Amherstburg, asks the following questions:

What kind of land is best suited for a crop of Broom corn? How much seed is required per acre? What way should it be cultivated? How cured and prepared for market? and how marketed?

[We should be pleased to hear from any of our subscribers that have had experience with it.—Ed. F. A.]

MANAGEMENT OF PASTURE AND FARM LANDS.

SIR,—Much has been written on this subject by men of letters with many good points in their writings, but I would rather have five years of practical knowledge than twenty years of theoretical. The farmer that wants to live by the field must make himself acquainted with the field, or he is sure to fail in its management, so far as my observations of Canadian farming has gone for the last five years, it is possible to improve it very much, the farmer cannot see how it will pay to take so much trouble to feed his land and if he does not attend to this matter he is wasting his time and money. I find the studies of books and men good in their place, but I also find, that the farmer has in his farm his best friend if he will only make use of it.

Now for my plan for procuring a good meadow and permanent pasture I seed down with barley in the spring, and I find the best plan to adopt to get the land in good order is to break up the sod early in the spring; sow oats four bushels to the acre, well worked in. As soon as the crop is off I put in the cultivator and get the stubble and weeds on the top; then put on the harrows and after that let it lie to the sun for a day or two. Then I put on the chain harrow, this knocks all the dirt off the stubble and weeds and drags the stubble up in heaps, so I can collect it in the wagon or cart. I prefer the latter, as it is the handiest, as I draw it all in heaps on the field, after which I plow two furrows around the field and draw an equal number of loads of the ploughed earth to each heap and cover all the stubbles. I then fetch about twenty loads of manure to each heap, spread this compost heap evenly on the top and sides. As soon as possible I plow the land and let it lie till I get through seeding. But I make time to have all my heap well turned and mixed. After seeding I turned to my field for raising roots, I now draw out my compost heaps evenly on the whole field I plow harrow and cultivate it until it is well pulverized,—now it is fit for turnips, mangolds and potatoes, beets and carrots. Now it will be well hoed and cropped soon after. As soon as I have the crops off I put in the cultivator and stir the soil as deep as the team can cultivate. I leave it now until spring. At the proper time I plow deep, work it well and sow barley, putting it carefully in. I take the roller and roll the whole field, drawing a mark at every six feet to sow my timothy and clover by. After the seed is sown I take the team with a light seed harrow just half around or once across the field. I have adapted this plan since 1865, and I am satisfied that it more than double pays for the labor, the yield is from two to four times more per acre according to the season. By all means keep stock off till late in the fall and I like to keep them off altogether if possible. In the spring I would if the land is dry, feed the first growth about two weeks and not feed too clean. The hay would commence then about the time the old meadows are ready, and the hay can then be well mixed in the mow. This may not look to be the best way to an old Canadian farmer; but try it before you condemn it. FARMER.

Deerham, April 14, 1874.

—The first wheat sown in this country was in 1602, on an island in Buzzard's Bay, Mass. The first wheat sown in Virginia, was in 1611. Potatoes were first sown in 1629. The first apples were raised on Governor's Island, in Boston Harbor, in 1639. Ten fair pippens were produced. The value of the fruit crop in 1870 was \$48 000,000.

Miscellaneous.

ITEM FROM PARIS LETTER.

The winter is peculiarly unfavourable, consisting so far of persistent fogs, which by preventing all nocturnal radiation, maintains a disagreeable humidity, under cover of which small black slugs feed on the young winter wheat, and, although powdering the surface with lime destroys many of them, the invading army seems to possess a landwehr, to judge by the hosts that come to the rescue. Crows are the best extirpating agents of snails at this season. Unhappily every man's hand that is to say, every one's gun, is against the bird. This abnormal mildness will in due course, turn to severity.

COATING FOR OUTSIDE WALLS.

The following coating for rough brick walls is used by the U. S. Government for painting light-houses, and it effectually prevents moisture from sinking through:

Take fresh Rosendale cement, 3 parts, and of clean, fine sand, 1 part; mix with fresh water thoroughly. This gives a grey or granite color, according to color of cement. If brick color is desired, add enough Venetian red to the mixture to produce the color. If a very light color is desired, lime may be used with the cement and sand. Care must be taken to have all the ingredients well mixed together. In applying the wash, the wall must be wet with clean, fresh water; then follow immediately with the cement wash. This prevents the bricks from absorbing the water from the wash too rapidly, and gives time for the cement to set. The wash must be well stirred during the application. The mixture is to be made as thick as can be applied conveniently with a white-wash brush. It is admirably suited for brick work, fences, etc., but it cannot be used to advantage over paint or white-wash.

INTEREST.

No blister draws sharper than interest. It works all day and all night, in fair weather and in foul. It has no sound in its footsteps, but travels fast. It gnaws at a man's substance with invisible teeth. It binds industry with a film as a fly is bound in a spider's web. Debts roll a man over and over, binding him hand and foot, and letting him hang upon the fatal mesh until the long-legged interest devours him. There is but one thing on a farm or plantation like it, and that is the Canada thistle, which swarms new plants every time you break its roots; whose blossoms are prolific and every flower the father of a million seeds; every leaf is an awl, every branch is a spear, and every plant like a platoon of bayonets, and a field of them like an armed host; the whole plant a torment and a vegetable curse, and yet the farmer had better make his bed of Canada thistles than attempt to be at ease upon interest.

A SWARM OF LOCUSTS.

The following historical facts will give an idea of the enormous magnitude sometimes attained by migrating swarms of insects. After the defeat of Poltava, while retreating through Bessarabia, Charles XII's army was marching through a defile, when suddenly the men and horses were brought to a halt, being precipitated from a thick cloud which intercepted the light of the sun. The coming of the locusts was heralded by a whizzing sound like that which precedes a storm of wind, and the noise of their wings and of their bodies as they clashed together was greater than the roar of breakers on the sea shore. General Levallian saw at Philippeville Algeria, a cloud of locusts twenty to twenty-five miles in length, which, when it descended to the earth, formed a layer over an inch in thickness. Towards the close of 1864, the cotton plantations of Senegal were destroyed and a living cloud was seen to pass over the country from morning till night; the rate at which it moved showed that it was about fifty miles long; and this was only the vanguard, for when the sun went down a still denser cloud was moving on. The English traveller, Barrow, states that in Southern Africa, in the year 1797, these insects covered the ground to the extent of two square miles, and that being driven by the wind toward the sea, they found a drift near the coast nearly four feet in depth, and fifty miles long. After the wind changed, the stench of their putrifying carcasses was recognized at the distance of a hundred and fifty miles.