

Salt Frauds.—Observing your readiness at all times to protect the farming community, by exposure in your columns of all fraudulent practices, permit me to warn your readers of certain brands of salt that are now being exposed for sale. A barrel of salt ought to weigh 280 lbs. net, or 300 gross. Unfortunately as yet there is no law on the subject fixing the standard of a salt barrel; but a movement will doubtless be long legalised the standard of 280 lbs. net. But in the meantime a good deal of salt weighing from 200 lbs. gross per barrel and upwards, is being placed on the market. When it is thus packed light the maker generally omits to brand any weight on the barrel, thus clearing himself of any imputation of supposed fraud. Freight being charged at the rate of so much per 100 lbs., the dealer who orders for example 120 barrels of 200 lbs. salt, which constitutes an ordinary carload, equivalent to 80 barrels of full weight salt, 300 lbs. each, gets these 120 light barrels conveyed for the same amount of money that an honest dealer pays to convey 80 barrels. He pays the maker a lower price for the light salt, gets it carried *per barrel* for less money, and then frequently sells it to the farmer for "a barrel of salt"; whereas in point of fact it is only two-thirds, or perhaps a little more, of a proper barrel. Until the Government fixes a standard by-law and orders every barrel to be plainly branded with the maker's name and weight, and a penalty is enforced for the infringement of the same, the farmer is at a disadvantage. But he has still a powerful remedy in his hands. Few people like to be detected in questionable, not to say dishonest practices. Let each and every farmer weigh his barrel of salt before loading it in his wagon, and if it does not average say 280 lbs. gross, refuse to pay for it except at the proportionate rate. Few storekeepers will be disposed to make any trouble; but the result will be they will in their turn see that the maker sells them honest weight.—JOHN RANSFORD, Clinton.

In-Breeding.—Kindly inform me through your next ADVOCATE whether I can put a grade Jersey back to her sire, as he is the only one convenient, as I learn Jerseys are in-bred animals.—SUBSCRIBER, Bradford, Ont.

[The effect of in-breeding is not yet a settled question, but the injurious tendencies have been greatly over-rated. We think you would be safe in putting your cow to her sire, providing there are no inherent defects in the sire or the dam. If both have the same defects, they are sure to be perpetuated, especially if they are prominent ones. However, it is a wise plan to introduce fresh blood into the herd occasionally, but be sure that the bull you take is not inferior to the one you give.]

Knights of Agriculture.—I have been waiting for some time in hopes of seeing some words in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE in the interests of the Knights of Agriculture, in relation to the labor question, but have thus far waited in vain. We read of strikes among the mechanics for eight hours of labor, with ten hours of pay. We see some of our leading papers advocating the same. We hear of municipalities giving their laborers ten hours pay for eight or nine hours work. We also read and hear much in condemnation of the tyranny and greed of capital in literally compelling (by their necessities) men, and women too, to perform ten hours of labor for ten hours of pay. We also learn from the same sources that some of the less favored mechanics are compelled to labor for their masters, as they allege, for the paltry consideration of from 15 to 20 cents per hour, while others are demanding shorter hours and from 25 to 40 cents per hour, or if longer hours, 50 percent more pay for each extra hour worked. Now, Mr. Editor, while we sympathize most deeply with the hard worked, and (as they allege) poorly paid, and much abused mechanic, and while we might all desire a more equal distribution of this world's goods, and labor for all, would it not be well for us to consider a little what position we, the farmers of Ontario, are to hold in this matter? I believe it to be a conceded fact that farmers, also their wives and families (all who are old enough and able) work during six or eight months of the year from 12 to 16 hours a day, and for able bodied men's labor, do not receive per year over from seven to ten cents per hour. Now I want to ask you, as one of the trusted leaders of the noble army of the "Knights of Agriculture," to raise your voice in advocacy of better pay and shorter hours. Suppose we organize to resist such oppression, from or against whom shall we strike? Whom can we compel to give us twelve or sixteen hours pay for eight or ten hours work? Can we coerce any beings, divine or human, to give us, as a rule, long pay for short hours work? Should all working men succeed in accomplishing the change, would it necessarily increase the cost of our living, our implements or machinery? Can you demonstrate to us how we can pay for our farms as quickly, and have as many comforts and luxuries to enjoy, and to be released from work so early in life on shortened hours of labor? It has been said that he who increases a blade of grass by one, is a benefactor. How much greater would be the benefactor an agricultural Moses or Powderly, if you please, who shall lead us to the millennium of short hours and long pay? Now I beg you to break silence in this matter, and trust you will be able to answer in a satisfactory manner the foregoing questions, and that you may be able to explain to us clearly how we may be relieved from the incessant toil of the farmer's life, and still retain the advantages derived from hard

work and long hours, and when you do that we shall gladly hail you as our benefactor, and our Moses.—A KNIGHT OF AGRICULTURE, Brantford Tp.

What Out-door Work Should Farmers' Wives and Daughters Perform?—It has become a deplorable fact in our prosperous Dominion that farmers' wives and daughters are over-worked. I am glad that you have presented this opportunity for the women of Canada to assert their rights through the press. We have heard of "Woman's Rights" for years past—tableaux present the men milking, churning, scrubbing, etc.; but where have we an instance in real life? It is not the "inside" work that saps the life energies of our women; it is bearing the burden of work for which they are not adapted by nature. The intentions of an all-wise Providence have been perverted. For instance, our shoulders were not constructed to bear the weight of a heavy pail of milk suspended from each arm; man's broad shoulders and strong, muscular arms show that that was the work intended for him. No; the "outside" work is no more women's work to milk than it is men's work to wash the breakfast dishes. Yet each farmer in a prosperous community keeps at least six or eight cows, and plenty of them have ten, fifteen, twenty—yes, thirty cows, and that is the women's work. If it be convenient, perhaps on a very rare occasion the farmer himself or one of his boys might milk a cow or two, but by so doing they are lowering their dignity greatly, and they give the women to understand what an everlasting obligation they have brought them under, for which you must clean their boots, brush their clothes, go to the store for tobacco, etc. Then the women must feed the hogs, carry four or six heavy pails of milk three times a day to them. Whenever the men have any rush of work—and they rush on purpose sometimes—the women have to feed the cows, calves, hogs, clean the stables, and attend to carrying in the wood; if they passed the wood pile twenty times a day, they would never think of picking up a stick; if they split an armful occasionally they seem to think they have amply done their share. Now this is all wrong. Men should not only split the wood, but they should carry in every stick of it. Our American sisters would let their husbands and brothers go without their dinner if they did not provide them with wood and water. But to continue: Milking over, calves fed, barn-work done, wood and water in, what other outside work have the women to do? Oh, it is spring; they must clean up about the doors, gather rubbish into heaps, lug heavy boards, etc., that the men have found it convenient to leave there; and then in the meantime they must keep a sharp lookout on the cattle, for the fences are not yet repaired, and they might get into the fall wheat. Perhaps they do run and put them out, sinking at every step in the soft ground, to sink into a chair for a few minutes. But the busy housewife cannot sit there long, for there is washing, ironing, scrubbing to be done, dishes to wash, beds to make, floors to sweep, stoves to clean, dusting, sewing, mending, darning, and many other things "too numerous to mention." And then you know there is house-cleaning, and last year apples were not a good price, and the farmer brought them and all rotten—two or three hundred bushels of them, and the women must carry them out, for the men have no time; besides, it belongs to the "women's work." The poor woman heaves a heavy sigh, but she might as well submit to the inevitable. And then she knows she must hurry up, for there is all the garden to hoe, and scrape, and dig, and delve. Poor, poor woman! When we think of all she has to do, we are lost in wonder that there are not more farmers' wives and daughters inmates of insane asylums, and indeed we know a large percentage of the inmates do belong to this class. Fathers and brothers, did you ever see the work of your wives and sisters enumerated before? Did you ever think of it in that light? Surely you could not, or you would go and hide your faces with shame to think you had stood by and seen your mothers and sisters go down to premature graves with overwork. But we are not through yet. Potatoes to plant: Few men can do even that without the help of the women. There is weeding to be done. Mary and Susan, come out and help us to weed to day, and the poor girls have to go, leaving mountains of work for their mother to do alone in the house. Again, harvest approaches. We have seeders, mowers, reapers, self-binders, to make work easy for the men, still they must have the women out to help mow away the grain, and actually one young girl in our neighborhood pitched on all the loads last summer; and it is no uncommon occurrence to see girls building the loads and reaping the grain. Now we have finished harvesting, we must bring in apples and potatoes; of course the women must help. If the men shake the trees, load the bags and dump them into the cellar, they do admirably well. As like as not they will call, "Mother, give us a lift with this bag." What a crying shame! Go to any of our country churches; look over the congregation, and what do you see? Tired, pale, broken-down looking women, too wearied to pay any attention to the sermon. Nature must have her due, and when their energies are relaxed, nothing is more natural than that they should succumb to that sweet restorer of nature, sleep. What time have they for reading or music? None. Do not blame farmers' wives and daughters if they are ignorant. Young men of Canada, give heed! Lift off the tired shoulders of your mothers and sisters the heavy burden under which they have been struggling for the past years, and let the next century issue in a brighter era for our women. Canada needs re-

forming in this respect, and I sincerely trust our young Canadian hopefuls will respond unanimously to the call, and that in the next generation, if not sooner, we will find the men doing the "outside" work, and the women attending to their own particular department, the house, or rather, the home.—J. E. A.

Killing Wild Oats.—I changed seed oats (two bushels) with a neighbor, and found some wild oats in them when we had them nearly all sown. What means would you advise to prevent them from polluting the land? My land is free from any such dirt, and I would not have exchanged seed only the neighbor declared his seed was pure, and that he had no wild oats on his land.—J. W., West Essa.

[If the wild oats ripen and fall on the ground, keep the surface stirred with cultivator and harrow, or if the soil is too stiff for the cultivator, plow it first very lightly with the gang plow. By so doing, the seeds will germinate and may be destroyed by cultivating and harrowing say once a week, if the weather is warm so that the oats will sprout quickly. But you should not plow deep, else some of the seeds will be covered too deeply, and will be troublesome in succeeding years. If the wild oats find their way into the barn, keep them from mixing with other grains, and the manure from the stock fed on the oats and the cat straw should be thoroughly fermented. Probably it would be safer to grind the oats, and then there will be no danger in their getting back to the field through the manure heap, but in all cases the straw should be burnt or fermented, especially if the grain is not thoroughly threshed out. If only part of your crop is mixed with wild oats, you could probably use it for green fodder, or cut it green and cure it like hay. This would be the most effectual remedy.]

Spark Arresters.—Our fire policies read, "The use of standard steam threshers permitted." Would you explain in your column what is a standard steam thresher? FARMER, Frontenac, Ont.

[The spark arresters of every portable agricultural engine manufactured is inspected by the inspectors of the insurance companies, and if they are held to be safe for running threshing separators, insurance policies are granted, and the engine is then known as "standard."]

SIR.—In referring to this part of the world, you have several times expressed a wish to receive truthful statements respecting this much boomed up country. In my previous letters I have sent you the simple truth, but in your last issue your correspondent, C. G. C., Treherne, very kindly tells your readers that my statements are wrong. I on the other hand beg respectfully to inform C. G. C. that no such prices as he mentions have been paid in this neighborhood during the past season. I don't quote Winnipeg prices any more than they in Winnipeg would quote prices paid in Liverpool. Your correspondent was right in his statement that Stodderville is within five miles of a railroad, but unfortunately that does not prevent my living fifteen or even thirty miles from a market; we are not blessed with a P. B. adjoining every farm here, however it may be in Treherne. Whether C. G. C. thinks I am a right thinking man or not, matters but little to me; the fact remains the same that not only I, but hundreds of others, do grumble, and I think justly too, at having to pay this tax of 35 percent upon our tools, but I thank him very much for informing me that this goes into the pockets of the C. P. R. for the purpose of building branch roads. I was entirely ignorant of it previously. I hope that in future before he accuses another of publishing false statements, he will take the trouble to ascertain that they are so. If there was good news to tell it would give no one greater pleasure than myself to publish it, but to publish the absurd statements, such for instance as that contained in your May issue, where it is stated on the authority of Mr. —, that potatoes fetch 75 cents per bushel. Why, sir, in this part potatoes, good ones too, have been selling at 25 and 25 cents, the sack containing close upon two bushels of potatoes, — that are common in the columns of the press here, is 40 say the least of it very reprehensible. Every farmer, if he corresponds at all with friends in other parts of the world, is a far more effective immigration agent for good or ill than the salaried officials who seem to think it their duty to seduce settlers into the country upon utterly false statements, the result being often disappointment and disgust on the part of the dupes so seduced. Now for a little respecting our prospects for a bountiful harvest this year. We had a beautiful spring, and the seed, as a rule, went in in first rate condition, but unfortunately up to the present time in this locality we have had equal to two days any rain; I don't think we have had equal to two days rain during the past nine months. The consequence is that the later sown wheat is thin and weakly; present appearances seem to indicate unless we get plenty rain very soon, that we shall have an early, and I am afraid a very light harvest. There are large areas of oats and barley that have never come up. Of course I don't blame the country for this perverseness on the part of the clerk of the weather, every country is liable to these periods of drought, or else the other extreme; rain is very badly needed and for the sake of the whole province I trust we may soon get enough to set the crops moving in good style. The Bronze King potatoes came safely to hand, and I am very much obliged for them. I will let you know how they do here in due course.—R. C. B., Stodderville, Man.