

Wild Oats.

SIR,—Having seen in September number of the Advocate, an inquiry as to the best method of destroying wild oats, and having passed several years of my life in a part of the country much infested with this, one of the greatest pests with which the farmers of Canada have to contend, I venture to make a few remarks about them, hoping that though many may know as much or more, and a few may still be benefitted. To begin then, in the first place, with the pulling of wild oats, it is, I might say, labor lost, as they never all come up at once, but keep continually heading out and dropping their seed till harvest is over, consequently, you might be pulling until harvest, and then you find apparently as many as ever. In places having been late starting, they have not grown as high as the surrounding grain, but have shot and ripened unseen, and when fields are cleared in many places, it is nicely sown with them, and the farmer has the mortification of seeing his labor in pulling thrown away. I do not agree with the plan of a naked fallow to destroy them, as I consider, if done merely to destroy the oats, it involves the loss of a crop without any necessity for it, for in my experience they will not grow in a naked fallow to any extent, only in a very wet season. A good deal can be done in the way of destroying them by putting in roots, but the plan I most approve of—judging from my own experience in the matter—is this: As soon as the crop is off and the field clear, take a gang plow or cultivator, and stir the land as lightly as possible; for if buried too deep, they will not grow until again brought to the surface; even a good heavy sharp pair of harrows will answer the purpose very well. The grain in the surface being thus covered, will commence to grow as soon as the weather becomes a little damp, so as to moisten the land. Let it stand as long as convenient without plowing, in order that every grain may sprout, then turn under and let lie until spring, this is crop number one gone. In the spring cultivate and harrow again, as early as possible, in order to start the seed brought too near the surface by the fall plowing, and which had lain buried from the previous year. Having done this, let the oats grow till the 20th or 24th of May, then plow under and sow at once with barley or buckwheat. This is two crops destroyed, and a good chance to catch some more, should any be left. By the rapid growth of the grain sown, if the land is not in proper order for barley or buckwheat, peas and oats sown together, and cut green for feed, are a very good substitute. In this way no crop is lost, and if followed up it cannot fail to be successful. Care should also be taken with the manure, to turn after, and have it well heated before taken off the field, otherwise, many wild oats, to say nothing of other grains and seeds of noxious plants, will in this way be spread over the land. I hope these remarks may be of service to some of our farmers, and remain

A SUBSCRIBER.

Colpo's Bay, Sep. 1875.

[We give insertion to the above communication, though the subject has already occupied no little space in our columns. Our friend of Colpo's Bay has had no doubt much experience with the "wild oat" nuisance, and deals in a practical manner with the question. We have touched on it incidentally in "fallowing". Will "A subscriber" favor us with contributions, as time may permit.—Ed.]

Protection Societies.

SIR,—I noticed a suggestion in your paper in regard to organizing a horse-thief detecting company. I may state that we have a Protection Society organized in this neighborhood, which has been in operation for three years, and which has had the effect of diminishing crime in that direction. I herewith send you a copy of the constitution and by-laws of the Society. I am satisfied if societies of a similar kind were organized in every neighborhood, they would be the means of doing a great deal of good, and in case of a theft being committed upon a member of the society, the whole burden of expenses incurred upon the arrest and conviction of the thief would not be borne by the person losing the animal or article. Every Grange could be a Protection Society within itself.

Crops are above an average here.

JAMES ROGERS.

Eversley P. O., King Tp., Aug. 20th, 1875.

[We are pleased that in parts of the country the farmers are uniting to protect themselves and their property from the vagrants, who, being too lazy to earn their livelihood honestly, prey on the honest and industrious. The union of law-observing men desirous to have the laws of the land efficiently enforced and evil-doers brought to justice, is commendable. We have no fear of the farmers of Canada ever degenerating so far as to resort to Lynch Law. We know too well the value of a state of society constituted as every part of the Empire is, to permit for a day any other. With regard to the letter from Mr. Rogers, published above, we thank him for sending the constitution of their Protection Society, and reserve it for further use, if necessary. Should the farmers of any other district think well to form a similar society, Mr. Rogers would, we dare say, let them have copies.—Ed.]

Feeding Stock, &c.

SIR,—Would you please to give what information you think most proper on the best method of cultivating and harvesting common white beans as a field crop in your columns; also, if you have what you consider a correct analysis of the Canada thistle in regard to its nutritive qualities as feed for stock. I have seen it proved that hay, when cut about an inch long with the straw cutter, and tea made from it for calves, and when there was about one-fourth of it thistles, they thrived better and would be much obliged to you for it.

FEEDING COWS WHICH HAD CALVED EARLY ON DRY HAY.

I had eight cows which calved about the middle of March, 1873, and from what little experience I had in feeding milk cows, I was always under the opinion that they gave more milk when their hay was steeped in water, and this year I thought I would prove it if I could. I had a well of hard water close by the stable, and took a few good sound planks and made a box that would hold sufficient feed for four cows; the building had a passage along in front of the cows, and I kept the box in front of the cows, where it was used, for the hay was handy by and the well was on higher ground than the stable. I could bring the water into the box by letting it run in a pipe. To four of the cows I fed hay well soaked; to the other four I fed dry hay, with plenty of water in a tub beside it, and the cows which were fed on the soaked hay averaged two hundred pounds more than the others, while the year previous, when they were in good pasture, they averaged ten pounds more than the others.

The box is ten feet long and two feet wide; I have a plank for pressing the hay tight into the box, which I had hinged at one end inside of the box. When I filled the box with hay I had the plank raised on end; I then let the plank down, and by stepping on the outer end of it, I press it down, where it is held by a spring hook; then it is ready for letting in the water. I have coarse tubs beside the cows for feeding it in. The tea which it makes I give them in pails, or put it into the tubs when there is no danger of it freezing.

As you like the results of experiments, I send you the following:—

As I was passing the house of an old acquaintance, he came out to the lane with a bushel basket full of potatoes, and emptied them on the ground. I asked him what he was going to do with them; he said he was calculating to call the hogs to eat them. They were not very large, the most of them being about an inch in diameter and an inch and a half long. I said to him that I thought potatoes were rather dear to feed pigs with; they were at this time selling at a dollar a bushel. "Well," says he, "they are but small and they have long sprouts on them; they would not grow over half a crop, and besides, I have plenty without them." "Well," I said, "I have some, but I have not got plenty, and you had better let me gather up the best of them to take home and plant; I will give you back as many more perhaps of a better quality when my crop grows and ripens." "All right," says he, "you may do so, if you don't know any better."

But, nevertheless, I went and done so. I picked half a bushel of the best of them; they were Early Rose potatoes. I took a knife and cut out all the eyes except one at the seed end of each potato, and

planted them whole. The land was rich and in good order. I put them in rows a foot apart and eight inches apart in the row, and after they commenced to grow above the ground, I covered them with rotten straw and chaff two inches deep; and when they were four or five inches high, I went through them and just left one sprout at each potato. It was land that held the moisture well.

The result of the experiment was an extremely large yield of extra large potatoes. A great many of the stalks had three potatoes larger than a turkey's egg and two or three the size of marbles.

J. ELDER.

Oneida, Haldimand, Aug., 1875.

[We have not heard of the Canada thistle having been analyzed, the great aim of all conversant with it being to extirpate it from the soil as soon and as thoroughly as possible. We think it likely, however, that it is possessed of nutritive properties of no mean order, and might be used for some beneficial purpose. By means of its long roots it draws its food from a greater depth and wider extent of soil than clover or almost any other plant, and this food is from the stores of mineral manures. Some animals prefer it for food to the finest grasses. For damping hay, your trial and its success are confirmatory of our old experience, and we dare say that of many others. Late in the season we had the hay always damped for our horses, though not by such an ingenious contrivance as that described. If hay has been slightly salted when saved and damped before using, stock will relish it much more and eat it with greater avidity. The details of such experiments as "J. E." gives with hay and potato planting, will always find place in our columns, and we will thank him to let us hear from him occasionally.—Ed.]

Blindness in Sheep.

In reply to an inquiry from a subscriber for the most effectual remedy for blindness in sheep, Mr. Evans has sent us the following recipe, the result of long experience in England:

SIR,—Your correspondent wishes to know a cure for blindness in sheep. Perhaps he has been keeping them in a cold, bleak place, which will be apt to bring on blindness. If it is the same complaint I have seen, it will be likely to go through the flock. It also makes them very poor, and they will require good attendance and plenty of good, nourishing food. I have never known the following fail to cure them:

Sal ammoniac, lump sugar and Lapis calaminaris—of each two drachms, in fine powder. It accelerates the cure by opening the angular vein of the eye, holding the head in an inverted position, so that a few drops of blood may fall into the eye, as they generally are inflamed. The powder must be mixed well, and kept in a closely corked bottle for use. Take a small quantity of the powder on a ten-cent piece, one to hold the eye open while the other puts the powder in; or mix with honey of roses, and put in the eye with a feather. Hold the sheep a little while after, to prevent it shaking its head.

Perhaps your correspondent will be kind enough to let us know how it has succeeded, through the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

T. EVANS.

London Township.

Poultry Disease.

SIR,—I have a Brahma cock which has the following symptoms:—Gapes with his mouth, vomits; crop swollen; wings and tail drooping; comb and gills turned to a dark purple color; eats nothing. Would you or some of the subscribers to your valuable paper inform me what the disease is, and the best mode of treatment.

MICHAEL NEVILLE.

Forest, June 16th, 1875.

[Will any of our subscribers who know something of fowls, their diseases and the remedies, be kind enough to write to us in reply to Mr. Neville. In the September number of the Advocate, page 173, there is a short article on gapes in fowls.—Ed.]

SIR,—I to "the you reply of Orchard Grass) m suggest to not ident Poa serot Agrostes Western Grass is land—the the past grow in a and will grow, viz for winter will grow and bus summer, gathering affords a The b ture is Red Top glomerat

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