

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.**  
**Miscellaneous.**

**GERMINATION OF MUSTARD SEED.**

Will wild mustard seed germinate the same season it ripens if the ground is stirred up shallow and fine?

OLD SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—In some experiments by the North Dakota Station to test the germinating conditions of various weed seeds, many kinds were sown October 17th, 1899, and of these, wild mustard seed was practically the only kind that germinated the same year it was grown.

**DAMAGE TO COLT.**

A and B's farms abut. Both have barbed wire fence. A has bush next the line; B has crop. B felled a tree last winter. It fell on B's part of fence into A's bush. B cut the wire to make the tree into timber, after which he sold his farm to C, but did not notify C that the fence was down. A's year-old colt got through, and C's dog chased it in the wire. The veterinary has been attending it now for two months. Who is to pay the damage?

ONTARIO.

Ans.—It does not appear that A is in a position to recover damages by action against either B or C.

**SUCCESSION DUTY.**

1. What amount must a person be worth before the Government can take a percentage, and what per cent.?

2. Can he not will it to family to prevent Government from claiming it, supposing he is worth more than amount they state?

ONT.

Ans.—1. Ten thousand dollars, and the percentage is graded from 5 down.

2. No; that is to say, the legacies to members of his family may be exempt from succession duty, but if not within the exemptions provided by statute the payment of the duties cannot be evaded as suggested.

**DAMP CELLAR.**

We have a cemented cellar bottom, and to all appearance it ought to be dry, but it is entirely the opposite. We close it up in the day time and open it up at night, and still the cellar just drips with moisture. We had a furnace put in last fall, and both cold-air and hot-air pipes are covered with moisture a great part of time. We are afraid the pipes will soon rust out.

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—Without knowing the circumstances fully, we can only venture an opinion. We incline to think the drainage must be bad, and that the moisture soaks through the walls and floor, saturating the air in the cellar. Some years ago, the writer was troubled with excessive dampness in a gravel-bottomed cellar. Cementing the floor in this case largely overcame the difficulty. It must be remembered that dampness will penetrate even a cement floor, and still more readily a stone wall, especially if poorly constructed, and careful pointing will not make such a wall impervious. Care in the disposal of surface water so as to keep it away from the house, and thorough foundation drainage, are the only remedies we can suggest. We assume that "Subscriber" has a drain away from his cellar.

**GOOD AGRICULTURAL COUNTIES.**

1. How do the western counties of the Province of Ontario compare with the eastern from an agricultural standpoint?

2. What difference, if any, as to climate, rainfall, etc.?

3. Are the farmers in the western counties, as a rule, more prosperous than those in the eastern part of the Province?

4. Which counties in Western Ontario are generally recognized as best for grain and stock-raising.

X.

Ans.—1. The western counties of Ontario certainly compare favorably with those in the east. In nearly every county you will find farmers who call theirs the "garden of Canada."

2. In the extreme east, there is probably a heavier snowfall. As to rainfall, you could ascertain that by writing Mr. R. F. Stupart, meteorological office, Toronto, Ont.

3. We would not like to say which are the more prosperous. In either case, it depends largely upon the intelligence and industry with which their operations are conducted.

4. Such counties as Huron, Oxford, Middlesex, Perth, Lambton, Kent, Elgin, Wellington, Waterloo, Peel and Norfolk all rank high for general agriculture, but there are sections in others which would probably not take second place to those mentioned.

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**PAINTING METAL ROOF.**  
A Hastings County subscriber has asked us how often metal shingles require painting and the cost of same. The inquiry was in reference to the metal roofing which he had seen advertised in our columns at \$2.55 per square. His question was referred to the Pedlar Metal Roofing Co., of Oshawa, Ont., from whose reply we quote: "In the case of the steel shingle at \$2.55 per square, the roof would necessarily have to be kept painted. This is a small trouble and expense, as one gallon of red oxide paint will cover a surface of 800 square feet of metal, and needs this coat only once in every six or eight years." The red oxide paint can be purchased in gallon tins for about \$1.25, somewhat lower prices for larger quantities.

**RAPE FOR WINTER FEED.**  
Is there any such thing as cutting rape and curing it for winter feed? If so, when should it be cut, and how cured? Rape was sown about 24th of May, and is 18 inches high.  
J. S. Durham Co., Ont.  
Ans.—Rape is not suitable for curing as dry feed, but Wm. Rennie, in "Successful Farming," speaks of keeping rape for early winter feeding by cutting about November 20th with an ordinary scythe, forking into heaps and carting daily to the stable as required. When frozen, he adds, leave it in the stable to thaw. This method of handling would apply to crop sown the last of June or first of July. Yours having been sown so early, the best thing you can do with any unused surplus is to plow it under.  
If the pig troughs or watering tank leaks rub some cement into the cracks. Cement makes good corking, and they say the time is coming when the whole tank will be made of it.

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