



White Willow Again.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER.

SIR.—Seeing an article relative to the "White Willow" in your number for the 1st March, it reminded me of my desire to correspond with you on that subject.

Two years since, I purchased 600 cuttings of the far-famed white willow. Receiving no instructions concerning their management, I planted them according to my own judgment, and awaited the result with interest. I was soon gratified by seeing them (nearly all) sprout, and grow rapidly, some of them before the autumn attaining to the height of 3½ feet. Their appearance now was encouraging, and my expectation rose accordingly. The following season they grew spontaneously; most ridiculously so, indeed. The harvest passed, the summer ended, and my hopes of the expected hedge are well-nigh prostrate. That I can make a serviceable fence of it with careful training, I do not doubt; but, unless in future years they acquire a tendency to grow more straight, I fear their ungainly appearance would ill compare with the willow fences I once saw in Illinois.

You may ask do they not possess a leading limb? I may say, yes: they have leading limbs directed to 15 point of the compass. The leading limb of the preceding year is much the strongest, but swerved to one side in a manner very ungraceful; while young shoots spring vigorously from the base of the trunk, and seem destined to become leaders also. The bark is shaded with red, and the leaf appears the same as those of Illinois, the only marked difference being in the unshapely form. Now, from the description given, can you inform me whether mine is the real white willow, the genuine *Salix Alba* of the botanist or not, or have I been duped by the vendor of some spurious article?

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—We really cannot decide the questions asked by our correspondent, respecting the variety of willow grown by him. The fences we saw in Illinois tended almost wholly to the distinct tree shape, and not at all to the stool habit he describes. From his account, the willows in question seem to have grown very much after the style of the basket willow, (*Salix purpurea*), but there are so many species of willow that his description is not minute enough for us to express a decided opinion as to what kind has fallen into his hands.

A Manure Experiment.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR.—The subject of manures and the merits of different kinds being frequently discussed through your valuable paper, I take the liberty of giving you the result of an experiment made by me last season on a field of turnips for the purpose of testing the qualities of different manures; a part of the field getting no manure of any kind. All the manures were put in the drill and ploughed under, and the various lots were sown about the same time, and received the same treatment through the summer. When taken up, a quarter of an acre of each lot was staked off and carefully measured, giving the following results. If taken by weight, the yield in each case would have been much greater:

Lot without manure of any kind produced at the rate of.....	360 bush. per acre.
" 600 lbs. bone dust per acre, cost \$7 50	534 "
" 12 loads barn yard manure per acre	650 "
" 350 lbs. super-phosphate of lime per acre, cost including frt., \$7 50	625 "
" 220 lbs. super-phosphate, 67 loads of manure per acre.	635 "

The super-phosphate was purchased by me from P. R. Lamb & Co., Toronto; the bone dust was procured in Guelph. As to whether it will pay to purchase these manures, I will leave your readers to draw their own conclusions. W.W.
GUELPH, March 22, 1867.

Cheese Factories Wanted.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR.—The question agitating the minds of many of our Canadian farmers now is, "How shall we make the most of our cows?" This question has, no doubt, often been asked before, but the low price of butter this last season, as compared with the two former, has given it an interest which it did not before possess. To the minds of individual farmers here and there, who rely on the truthfulness of the accounts contained in THE CANADA FARMER respecting the profits to be derived from cows in the neighbourhood of cheese factories, the answer to the question is easy. But how to get near the cheese factory is the difficulty. You would think farmers might reverse the decision of Mahomet with regard to the mountain, and if they cannot go to the cheese factory, bring the cheese factory to them. You would think that farmers might themselves establish factories in favourable localities. This is what would be done in thousands of instances, only that farmers of capital and enterprise are so few and so far between. They will be all quite willing to send their milk to the factory, provided they get a high enough price for it, and payment in hand. To pay out cash, however, for the erection of a factory and to meet expenses connected with the working of it for a season, and in addition to have to wait until the cheese goes to market before receiving any return, is quite another matter.

A few of our more intelligent farmers of the township see the great advantage to themselves and others which would arise had they facilities on a large scale for making cheese. In consequence, however, of the smallness of their number, their inexperience, and want of spirit or confidence in each other, they are not likely, even with these facilities, to provide factories themselves. How foolish is this lack of energy, if what you have published in your columns, regarding the profits arising from cheese-making be even an approach to the truth. If 300 lbs. of cheese per cow can be made from cows in Oxford, and this cheese sold for 12½ cents per pound, then the profits of cow-keeping in many localities have yet to begin.

There are two or three points in this township, at each of which, taken as a centre, with a radius of between two or three miles, the milk of about 400 cows could be obtained for the support of a factory. The township itself is one of the best, not only in Central but in Western Canada, for agricultural purposes. From this, I suppose, it may be fairly inferred that the cows are tolerable milkers, if there be any truth in the old adage that "the cow gives milk by the mouth."

Could you not, Mr. Editor, induce some two or three capitalists to come and establish themselves among us as manufacturers of cheese? Our township is the second from the River St. Lawrence, lying in the County of Dundas. West Winchester, the best of the "centres" to which I have referred, is seventeen miles from the G. T. railway station at Morrisburgh. Building material of every kind can be obtained on the spot, or at a distance of between two or three miles. Mechanics of all kinds can also be easily obtained. We greatly want a cheese factory, and we have everything necessary towards it but the man with the money.

WILLIAM BENNETT.

West Winchester, March 14th, 1867.

MACHINE FOR FENCING.—P. W. Thompson, of Montreal, writes as follows:—

"I have been directed to you in reference to a machine for fencing, and would feel obliged if you would kindly give me the necessary information. There was one, I am told, at the Provincial Exhibition—cost about \$40—whose work would keep four men employed putting up. The machine should bore, point and saw. You will be good enough to favor me with the maker's name of this, or any subsequent invention which you may consider an improvement."

ANS.—We are unable to supply the desired information, and publish the above, as the likeliest means of drawing out any information on the subject which may happen to be in the possession of others.

Wheat vs. Barley.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR.—The time is near at hand when the seeding operations of the farmers will have to be commenced in this Province. The great staples of the country, wheat and barley, will have a due amount of attention paid them this spring. It is very important with the husbandman to determine which is the most remunerative crop, and which the most suitable to this soil; but there are some extraneous considerations to be taken into account with reference to the raising of barley, which it is well not to lose sight of. In my humble opinion the barley business has been quite overdone in this country.

It was quite natural, when we had free access to the American market with barley, and that grain was worth nearly as much as wheat, that farmers should grow it quite freely; but there has been a change in the relative circumstances since; a heavy duty now awaits its advent across the lines, and wheat this season has doubled its former price.

It appears to me that if we lessen the amount of land sown to barley about fifty per cent., the crop will pay us much better in proportion. It was expected that barley could be sent to England with paying results, after the close of the treaty, but I see by the quotations of Liverpool markets that barley is only 4s. 6d. there. Fifty or sixty cents per bushel might permit of its being sent there, but those prices offer but little inducements for growing the article here. There is no doubt but that the large production of barley in this Province heretofore has been attended with excellent results, having been quite profitable, and besides decidedly beneficial as a change from the over-cropping wheat system followed. This will enable us, stimulated by the splendid price of the latter, to sow pretty heavily this spring of this magnificent cereal, for the production of which this Province is so well adapted.

I am not able to speak of the gold drop variety of spring wheat, from personal knowledge, but I hear an excellent account of it as being a good produce on light soils. Moreover, it will come in the fall market nearly as early as fall wheat; and when the chances like the present are highly favourable for the early fall market, the inducement to sow this kind becomes much stronger.

It is gratifying to observe that the midge evil is gradually lessening, and it is to be hoped will eventually subside. If so, we shall be able to go back to early sowing as formerly, which will increase our chances of a crop at least twenty per cent. But we must not be over sanguine on this point; still there are many reasons why we should raise, this year, more wheat and less barley.

L. HARRIS.

Hope, April 2nd 1867.

Honey Locust for Hedges.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR.—As wood fences are becoming more expensive every year, I have determined on finding a substitute for them. With the little knowledge I have of live fences, I have made up my mind that the Honey or Hedge Locust is just the thing for this climate. The Osage Orange will not stand our severe winters, and it is a slow grower. The Buckthorn makes an efficient fence, but from my experience, it will take from seven to ten years to grow a fence, and the mice are very fond of it, while the locust is very hardy, and a thrifty grower. It grows with a tap root, and never sends up suckers.

Having commenced the cultivation of the Locust, both for sale and fencing, I will try to give you my manner of cultivation. In setting the plants for a fence it is necessary to ridge up the ground in the autumn, especially on clay soils, so that the action of the frost will mellow it.

I plough eight furrows together, so that it will give room to work with a horse, and set the plants with a dibble, ten inches apart, and mulch with short manure, which is all the manuring they will require. Cultivate three or four times through the summer, and keep the weeds down with the hoe. The second year they should be cut three inches from the ground, which will cause them to send up two, three or four shoots each; after which it is only necessary to keep them of a uniform size. With strong two-year plants, and good cultivation, a hedge can be grown in five years that will turn any ordinary animal.

FARMER.