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ELGIN
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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Miscellaneous.

TREATMENT OF MUCK.

We have considerable low, swampy ground of a very loose, black nature, drained and under cultivation. It grows extra heavy straw, which always goes down before harvest time. Is there any way of treating such soil to make it grow stiffer straw? What kind of crop would be most profitable for such soil?

Ans.—The trouble with such soils is that they contain within their large supplies of humus an excessive amount of nitrogen, and a consequently small proportion of the mineral constituents of plant food, which gives strength to the straw and plumpness and quality to the grain. If this black muck is a layer over a good quality of clay or loam, then it would be good policy to reduce its amount to useful proportion, but if the subsoil is cold and damp, and the muck the actual valuable portion of the land, then it should be retained. In the former case an application of lime might be beneficial, also deep plowing to mix the muck with the underlying soil, or if on small areas it might be advisable to haul the muck to fields of clay, if any were at hand, which have become exhausted of their supplies of humus, and have consequently become hard to cultivate. If the latter mentioned condition prevails, namely, that the muck is the most valuable part of the soil, then it would be well to study how best to make up the deficiency of mineral elements for the growth of crops. Unfortunately there has been but little experimenting on this subject. In some experiments conducted in the Central States, it was found that applications of air-slacked lime, or of kainite, a low-grade potash manure, one ton per acre, gave good returns. We would also expect good results from the use of phosphatic fertilizers. Would recommend experimenting with some of these substances. Would also try ashes, and note their effect. Crops that are heavy nitrogen feeders would naturally be most suitable for such soils. These would be corn for fodder, roots, potatoes, rape, a short, stiff strawed oat like Joannette, timothy and green fodder crops.

MILKING MACHINES.

I notice an article in the "Farmer's Advocate" of February 4th, re Milking Cows by Electricity. Can you tell me where I can learn more about this?

Ans.—The machine which formed the subject of the article in our February 4th issue was one that is being experimented with in France. It is not yet perfected or manufactured in large numbers. When the practicability of milking cows by machinery has been conclusively demonstrated, Canadian and American dairymen will be among the first to make use of the new invention. The electric motor is just another method of applying the power to the well-known and often-tested suction milking machines. These, however, are being perfected as rapidly as human ingenuity can devise improvements, and the practical milking machine will doubtless materialize before the world is much older.

BREEDING OF ROYAL GEORGE.

Can you give me the breeding of Royal George, a horse owned in Canada many years ago? Was he a draft or coach horse?

Ans.—The horse, Royal George, was a big trotting horse with splendid individuality. He was sired, it is said, by a Standard-bred trotting stallion, named Black Warrior, dam a Messenger mare, by a Vermont horse, Bristol Hambletonian. He was not eligible to registration, but left much good stock of a large harness type, and some of the fastest trotters ever produced in Canada. He was foaled near London, Ont., but spent two years in the stud at Lewiston, N. Y., and died in St. Catharines, Ont., in 1861.

MILK CONDENSING.

Will you please publish the price paid for milk, and other particulars in connection with condensed milk factories in the United States?

Ans.—These factories just pay the market value for milk in the particular neighborhood in which they are situated. In Ingersoll, Ontario, there is a factory operating, which has to secure its milk in competition with several cheese factories, and cheese factories have been able to return the producer a pretty fair figure for his milk the past two years. Milk condensing factories do not make a practice of letting the public into their works, so comparatively little is known about them. They also prohibit the feeding of turnips and ensilage.

QUEBEC STOCK REGISTER.

In your editorial of Jan. 21st, re Pure-bred Live-stock Records, you state for sheep there are no Canadian records. Last fall I bought a ram from a breeder in Quebec, who sent me a certificate from General Breeders' Association of the Province of Quebec—Shropshire sheep—signed by J. A. Couture. Is the Association a myth?

Ans.—Since the receipt of this query, we have learned from Dr. J. A. Couture, of Quebec, that there was organized in Sept., 1895, the General Breeders' Association of the Province of Quebec, of which Dr. Couture is secretary, and who keeps records and issues certificates of registry for several breeds of live stock, including Shropshire sheep.

MANURING MEADOW.

I have a field I seeded last spring with timothy and clover, which I want to top-dress with manure that is being made this winter. Am hauling manure from stable this winter and piling in field. Which would be the best time to spread the manure, this spring, as soon as I can get a team on the land, or just after haying? I am getting a manure spreader in the spring.

Ans.—We would recommend you to spread the manure this winter when hauling out, and go over the field in the spring with a harrow to further spread it. It should be put on very thin and as even as possible. That already in the field, may be spread in the spring just before feeding, as there may be a few days when the ground would be frozen, on which the clover could be done. Do not leave it until after haying, as the value of the manure would be much decreased, and the fire would be lighter by a very great deal.

BEEF RING.

I would like to get a little information from you about forming a beef ring.

Ans.—See page 124, January 28th issue. If not sufficient, write us again.

CLOVER SEEDS.

Would you please give us the address of some good, reliable firm, or some farmer, where we could purchase alsike and red clover?

D. A. McM.
Glengarry Co., Ont.

Ans.—Seedsmen and farmers having first-class seeds or grain for sale should advertise same in the "Farmer's Advocate."

CATTLE-BOT PASSAGE.

How could I get passage on a cattle ship next fall, as I wish to go to England?

G. H. T.
Oxford Co.

Ans.—If there is no cattle exporter in your locality to arrange with, write Mr. T. Coughlin, Glanworth, Ont., or R. Bickerdike & Co., Montreal, Que. In going for the latter, you would likely have to pay your fare to Montreal.

WATER FOR A HORSE.

What is the proper quantity of water to be given each day to a working horse? Would there be any gain in giving a certain quantity, either before or after each meal? Does a horse that is being driven require more water in a day than an idle horse?

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—When a horse is doing ordinary work, water him before and after feeding, allowing him all he will drink; except when very hot, then give only a small amount until he cools off. A horse being driven naturally requires more water to sustain him than does an idle horse, for the reason that he is exerting more energy, and consequently uses up more food and drink in producing that energy.

RATION FOR DAIRY COWS.

Which feed do you consider best for dairy cows for the production of milk: Prime cottonseed meal, \$28 per ton; or oil cake meal, \$24 per ton, to be mixed with bran? Which do you deem the most economical? Also do you advise feeding corn meal to dairy cows?

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—In feeding value, one pound of oil cake is about equal to seven-eighths of a pound of cottonseed meal, and this proportion also applies to their market values, so from the economical standpoint they are about equal. Corn meal would be useful if much clover hay were being fed with the bran meals; but if the roughage consisted largely of ensilage, mixed hay, or chaff, oats would be a better grain to feed than corn. As a general rule we would not be averse to feeding corn along with bran and oil meals, for by so doing we would get a greater variety of foods, which invariably give better results than single grain, or even a mixture of two classes of grain.

GOSSIP.

A book agent took refuge under a haystack during a thunderstorm and the lightning struck him on the cheek, glanced off and killed a mule a hundred yards away.

"I propose," said the ambitious young man, "to girdle the earth."
"Oh!" she innocently exclaimed, "why do you begin on such a big thing?"
But he just sat there and twirled his hat, the foolish fellow.

Sure of Its Victims.

Dr. D. M. Bye, of Indianapolis, Ind., the great cancer specialist, who has cured over six thousand cases of cancer within the last ten years with soothing, balmy oils, says that one time he selected a list of five hundred names of persons who had written to him relative to taking treatment, but who, from some cause, had neglected to do so, and wrote to them several months later inquiring after their condition. To his surprise and grief he learned that nearly twenty per cent. had died within five months from the time they had written their letters of inquiry. If left to itself cancer is always sure of its victim. Book sent free, giving particulars and prices of Oils. Address Dr. D. M. Bye Co., Drawer 505, Indianapolis, Ind.

A Golden Rule of Agriculture:

Be good to your land and your crop will be good. Plenty of

Potash

in the fertilizer spells quality and quantity in the harvest. Write us and we will send you, free, by next mail, our money winning books.

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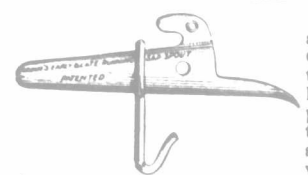
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MAPLE SYRUP EVAPORATOR.

Not a single feature of the "Champion" Evaporator could be dispensed with and leave a perfect Evaporator. Durability, rapidity, and high quality of product, with saving of fuel, are its features. Our sectional pan system makes it easy to handle, and everlasting. Write for catalogue, state number of trees you tap, and an estimate of your requirements will follow.



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Also manufacturers of the
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84 WELLINGTON ST., MONTREAL.

BOYS FOR FARM HELP.

The Managers of Dr. Barnardo's Homes invite applications from farmers, or others, for the boys who are arriving periodically from England to be placed in this country. The young immigrants are mostly between 11 and 13 years of age; all will have passed through a period of training in Dr. Barnardo's English Institutions, and will have been carefully selected with a view to their moral and physical suitability for Canadian life. Full particulars as to the terms and conditions upon which the boys are placed may be obtained upon application to Mr. Alfred B. Owen, Agent Dr. Barnardo's Homes, 214 Farley Ave., Toronto.

AUCTION SALE OF PURE-BRED BREEDING CATTLE (Male and Female.)

The first annual sale under the auspices of the GUELPH FAT STOCK CLUB will be held in the WINTER FAIR BUILDINGS, GUELPH.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16th.

THOMAS INGRAM, Auctioneer.

Entries must be made with the Secretary on or before Saturday, 30th January.

For entry forms and full particulars, apply to John McCorkindale, Secretary, Guelph.

For further particulars apply to the Secretary, J. M. DUFF, President, JOHN McCORKINDALE, Sec., Guelph.

WANTED

In every unrepresented town an agent, preferably a flour and feed or hardware merchant, to handle WORTHINGTON'S CANADIAN STOCK TONIC, the greatest and cheapest stock food made or sold in Canada. Ninety per cent. of fat cattle exhibited at Provincial Fat Stock Fair were fed from it. 10-lb box, 50c; 50-lb sack \$2. Quality and sale guaranteed. Write for trade quotations. Manufactured only by THE WORTHINGTON DRUG CO., Wholesale and Retail Druggists, GUELPH, CAN.

WANTED Farm Manager who understands farming, care of farm stock and farm machinery. Good position to the right man. Apply to "Mc," Farmer's Advocate, London, Ont.

In answering any advertisement on this page, kindly mention the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.