

NORTHERN NURSERIES.

SIR,—In answer to J. B. W.'s inquiry in the January number of the *ADVOCATE*, on page 21, about a nursery 45° north latitude, I have got a small nursery 45½° north latitude, in the Ottawa valley, 60 miles north-west of Montreal. My experience in growing apple trees extends backward about 12 years. I have supplied my neighbors with trees, which are all doing well, and they will testify to what I say. Thousands of dollars were paid by parties here for trees got from southern nurseries, which have all died. I grow the following varieties:—For summer—Letofsky and Duchess of Oldenburg; for autumn—Alexander, Plumb's Apple and Peach Apple, of Montreal; early winter—Fameuse or Snow Apple; late winter—Golden Russet, Walbridge, Pewaukee, Canada Baldwin and Ben Davis, and several varieties of crabs. Keep the duty on corn.

H. S., Little Rideau.

FRUIT TREES.

SIR,—Seeing a communication from J. B. W. regarding fruit trees being killed down and seeing that he states that it is because the trees come from southern nurseries, I would say that my experience is different, as I have some that have done remarkably on P. E. Island. I found a large majority of the trees were killed by being planted too deep.

A. G., Little York, P. E. I.

SIR,—In reply to inquiry of J. B. W., North Ontario, it might be some trouble to a man to find a nursery north of parallel passing through Muskoka Lake. We have sent trees to Muskoka which we think are doing fairly. If J. B. W. will write the Markham Nursery he may find a supply of strong-grown apple trees—prime hardy kind—and hints, which we confidently believe, if carried out, will result in success.

L. C., Markham, Ont.

SIR,—You will confer a compliment on me if you would insert a remedy for killing ticks on sheep in your next issue of the *ADVOCATE*. By so doing you will much oblige yours truly,

J. A., Westport, Ont.

[The Leicestershire Tick Destroyer of Briggs & Son, Hamilton, Ont., is recommended. Try it.]

SIR,—Farming news is scarce at present. We have an agricultural society in this place called "Clement Agricultural Society," which has a membership of nearly fifty; we can also boast of a farmers' club, having a membership of about thirty. Perhaps I may be able to send you some items at a future time.

H. W. D., Annapolis, N. S.

WINTERING BEES.

SIR,—I have wintered from 30 to 35 hives of bees for 15 years, and have only lost 3 or 4 in all that time; they got out of honey and starved. Of course that was bad luck for the bees, but it was neglect and bad management on my part, and I say that when bees are lost in wintering that there must be some neglect or bad management. I have wintered 15 cows for 15 years, and have lost 3 in that time, which is more than double the loss of the bees, and I have tried to take as good care of the one as the other. If any one wishes to know how I winter my bees, they must write to me and let me know, for I won't take the time to write a long letter to the *ADVOCATE* until I first know whether any one wishes me to do so or not.

L. S., Cornhill, via Anagance, N. B.

[We, on behalf of our subscribers, would be glad to have the information.]

SIR,—Those of us who have raised sugar beets this year have fattened our hogs on them this winter, by boiling them up and mixing some bran or chopped stuff with them, and they can't be beat; it paid big this year, as corn is scarce and dear. I would just say here that this is a bad year to test the question of duty or no duty on corn, as it is a failure all over—the first year I ever knew it to be such a poor crop in the west. Though I am one that would say, keep the duty on corn and oats, I would just as soon have had it off this year; but it will be all right another year, I hope.

W. H. A., Ridgetown, Ont.

[Your question as to whether beet-root sugar factories have been profitable, can only as yet be answered, no—in so far as regards this continent.]

CORN.

SIR,—As I see a note as to seed corn in December number, I will give a few suggestions. I have had quite an experience in raising corn, and scarcely ever failed. When the corn becomes properly glazed, cut the stalks and set in small stooks; when dry enough to husk, and at the time of husking, select such ears as are full to point and sound; leave the husks on so as to tie together; hang in a warm, dry place, where mice cannot get at it, and I will warrant it to grow every time. I have planted corn saved this way five years old, and it grew every time. This year my neighbors planted from one to three times, and I only once, and had a good crop considering the dry season. To kill all kinds of bushes, cut while the leaf is to its full size, or in the month of July, about the middle of the month.

T. R., Mossie P. O.

[We have frequently published lists of desirable fruits at various times in the *ADVOCATE*. The selection of fruits you name is good. By consulting the lists of nurserymen of repute, you can increase the number of varieties, taking care to avoid the fault of having too many. The prices quoted for the books you name are net—no discount.]

SIR,—Can you inform me whether a pathmaster can cut down trees opposite his own property on the roadside?

H. R. S., Toronto, Ont.

[Your question is too indefinite. If the interests of the road require it he can do so. He has to have a valid reason for his actions.]

HO! MANITOBA HO!

SIR,—A constant and interested reader of the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* I have been for years, and as such send you these lines. It is somewhat difficult to write anything new or striking of this illimitable waste. It has been so often and so thoroughly described that I can only give you personal impressions, together with a few facts divested of the exaggerated rose-colored hues in which they have been painted by the local press, and by travellers who have visited it, without seeing or experiencing any of the inconveniences usually attendant upon such visits. One of the greatest advantages enumerated here is the fertility of the soil. This is true, but it is not to be forgotten that there are large areas which are alkaline, and necessarily of a sterile character; that there is also a large quantity consisting of wet lands, muskegs, etc. As to the depth of the fertile soil, I do not see that there is a great deal in that; a fertile soil two feet deep is fully equal to one thirty feet deep. After the fertility has been extracted from the first foot it is necessary to invert the second foot—evidently a very costly proceeding. The comparative scarcity of wood and water is a very serious objection to this country. The planting of trees upon these prairies is a work of years, as the trees can be but slowly developed, owing to their being retarded by their exposed position. Fruit trees will be a novelty for a century. As to water, I am told good water can be obtained at a depth of 60 feet. I thanked my informant for the fact, and thought it foretold a very unsatisfactory outlook. A 60-foot well is rather deep! I should prefer, in that case, to leave well alone. Of course, there are favored portions, but not to the extent interested parties would lead people to believe, and I am creditably informed that the main line of the Canadian Pacific R. R. is located through an extremely poor agricultural belt of country. As a farmer, I should advise intending immigrants to purchase well to the north of the main line till they are near the Saskatchewan. There are also wet seasons, and should one occur this coming spring here, those who have lots in the vicinity of Winnipeg will be paddling over them in canoes.

The land speculation here is a "cranky" craze, which is furthered by the specious efforts of irresponsible speculators and real estate dabblers. Property changes hands at increased figures, and very large profits are made—on paper. False prices are inserted in deeds to give a false idea of the value; and property is most certainly far beyond its legitimate value. The future of Winnipeg has most certainly been discounted for a decade of years. Since I have been up here there have been numerous deaths from typhoid fever, and I saw last fall very many persons afflicted with jaundice, caused by the use of the wretched water. The drainage of the town is most lamentable, and with the approach of warm weather it is an almost absolute certainty that an epidemic will take place. The hotel accommodation (?) here is woefully deficient as yet. The mud here in wet weather is

something abominable, and so sticky! I was speaking to an old resident the other day, and he mentioned the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* as having pitched into Winnipeg mud by publishing a somewhat amusing picture of carts, etc., stuck therein. He said it raised quite a storm of anger, and that the press said it was a libel. I asked him how they could deny it. He said, of course everybody knew it was true, that Winnipeg mud was the most abominable kind, that the country was full of black flies and mosquitoes, but Winnipeggers did not wish it known, and that the local press concealed every fact in any way opposed to the glowing accounts usually published. Any items of people freezing to death, or small-pox in Winnipeg, were carefully suppressed. There is, notwithstanding drawbacks, a future before Winnipeg and the North-west, but it will not be made the most of by deception and lies. Do not believe that it is all fertile—it is not, by any means; do not believe it is not cold—it is cold and dreary; but every place has drawbacks, and the North-west is not Paradise.

A SETTLER.

Rossin House, Winnipeg, Man.

SIR,—I think that you are rather too severe on Manitoba; it seems to me that you never miss having a slap at the youngest child. You have seen a little of her, and that at her very worst, and have not failed to show her up. But just think of what you have seen in the great Ontario. I recollect seeing a horse and cart, without any load, stuck fast in Parliament street, Toronto. Is it then any wonder to see a horse stuck in a country now and then in a state of nature? Years ago I have seen many roads in Ontario as bad, if not worse, than any part that I ever saw in Manitoba. For those reasons I nearly regret that you paid us a visit.

J. W., High Bluff, Man.

SIR,—Fall wheat was badly killed out in this part of the country, but spring crops turned out well; fall wheat looks well now. What kinds of spring wheat are the best to sow? White Russian and Lost Nation did well with us last year.

J. C. Clinton.

[In one locality certain varieties are good, and fail elsewhere. The following are valuable kinds of spring wheat: Black Sea Wheat, of which there are two varieties, one with red, and the other with white chaff; your White Russian may be the latter. The Siberian is also good, being a fine bearer, with a full, fine grain. Also the Italian, which is giving way to the varieties mentioned. We are pleased to receive your crop reports, short as they are.]

RETENTION OF PLACENTA.

SIR,—I have a cow that had a pair of twins lately; one came dead. She calved before her time, and was not doing well some time before she calved. She did not clean (as we call it), and the cow continued to fail. Could you inform me through your paper what is best to do to rid the cow of the trouble, and put her in good health again. Such cases are quite common here.

C. E., Canard P. O., N. S.

[The placenta, when it does not come away itself in 12 hours, should be removed by some competent person. When the cow has gone her natural time there is not much difficulty in removing it; but in cows that have slinked or lost their calves before the natural time, great care is needed on the part of the operator, to pay every attention to her throes or after pains, which will assist him greatly in removing it, but if he counteract her efforts he will expose himself to a great many disadvantages. The operator will take hold of the umbilical cord, and when the cow strains he will draw it gently forward, if only a few inches at a time, when it will all come at once. If it does not yield to this, it will be necessary to pass the hand into the womb to the several attachments, which are gently pressed between the fingers with a kind of rotatory motion, when detachment readily occurs.]

SIR,—Please state if a black instead of flesh colored muzzle in a Shorthorn is a mark of cross breeding, and oblige,

T. C. A., Fergus, Ont.

[Purity may be ascertained from the color of the skin. The bald skin on the nose is always definite and without spots. In the Shorthorn it is usually a yellow cream color, and if the blood is not pure, it is usually clouded with spots.] We give the above remarks, but would prefer to have the views of some of our Shorthorn breeders as to whether a black muzzle is really a blemish.]